Black

Jack

Osamu

Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 8

BLACK JACK [TEZUKA]

VOL. 8

VERTICAL

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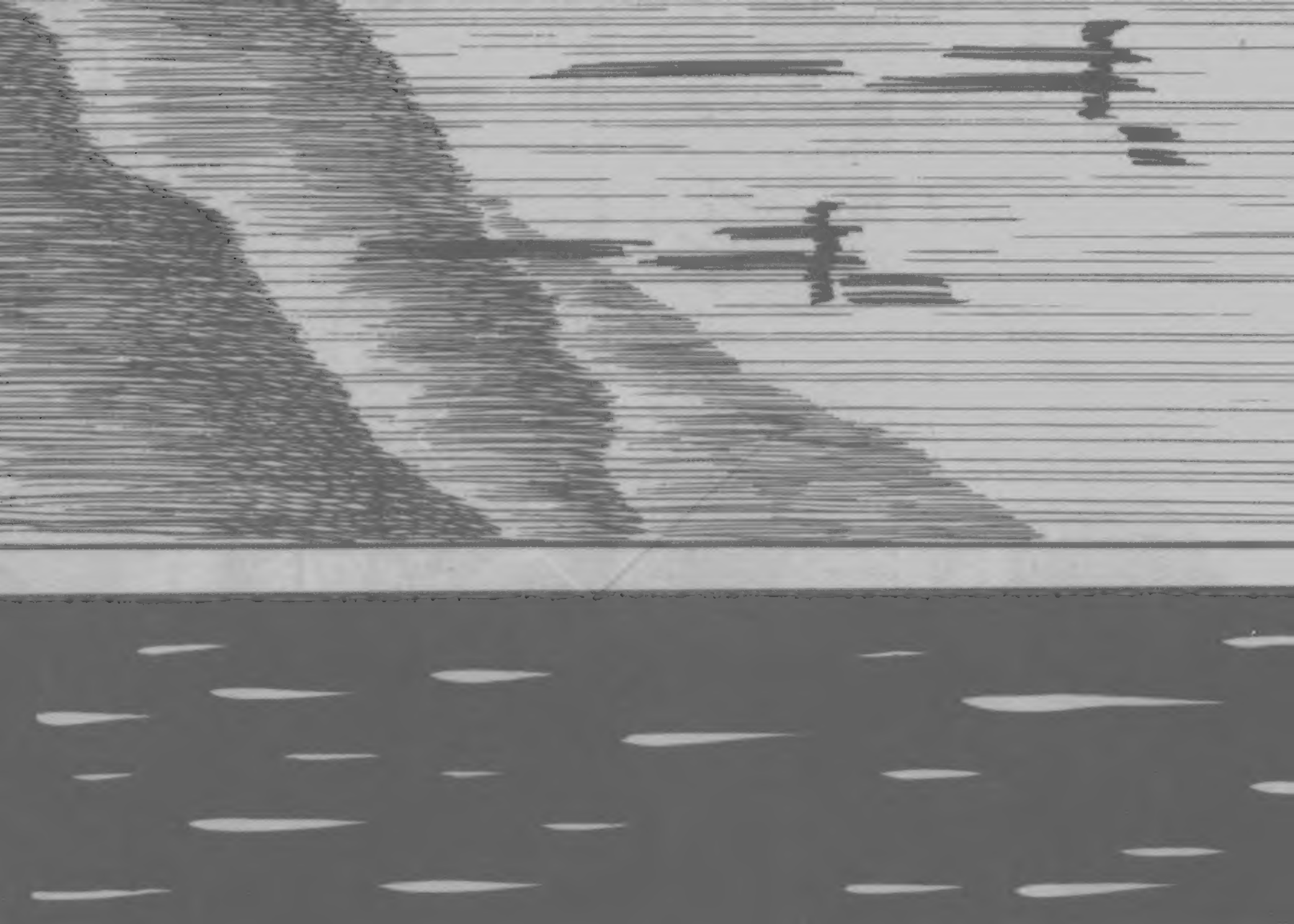

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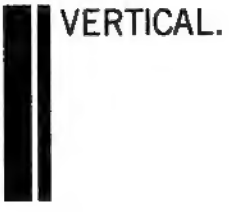
Volume 8

Osamu Tezuka



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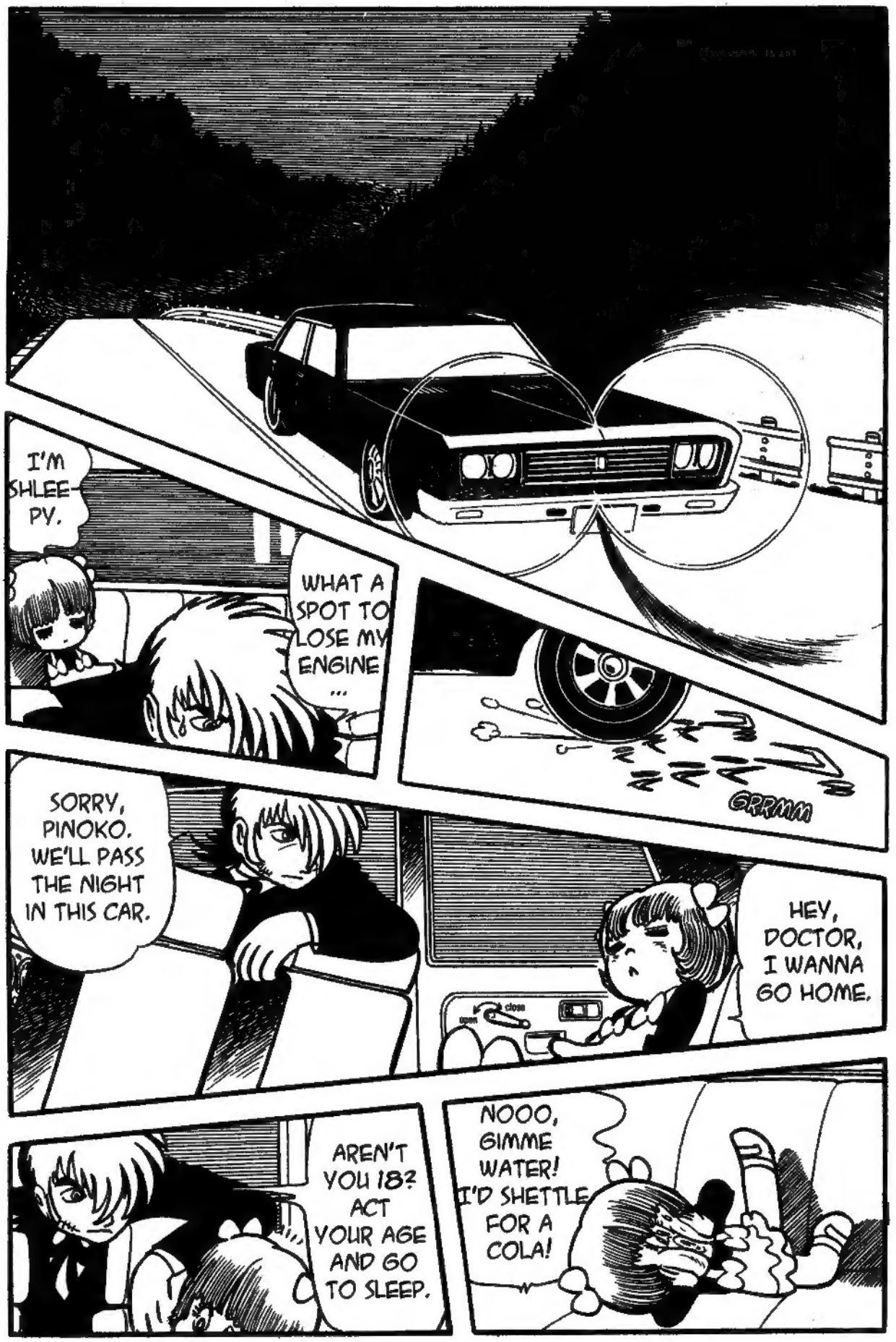
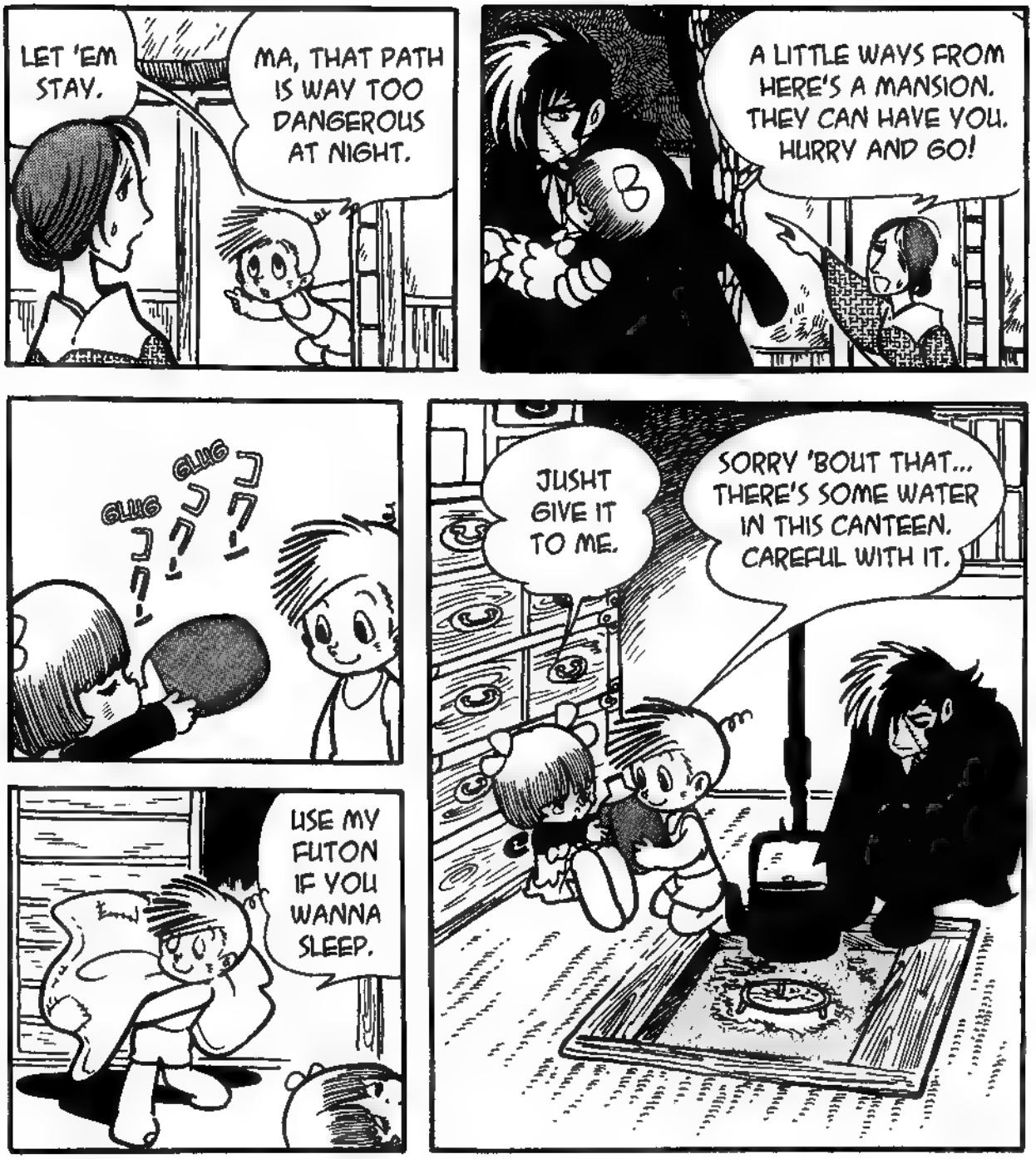
WHAT LURKS THE MOUNTAIN


I'M SHLEE-PY.
WHAT A SPOT TO LOSE MY ENGINE ...
GRRMM
SORRY, PINOKO. WE'LL PASS THE NIGHT IN THIS CAR.
HEY, DOCTOR, I WANNA GO HOME.
AREN'T YOU 18? ACT YOUR AGE AND GO TO SLEEP.
NOOO, GIMME WATER! I'D SHETTLE FOR A COLA!

A DOG... IT'S GOT A COLLAR TOO.
HEY, WAIT A SECOND.
WALK, PINOKO! YOU'RE 18, RIGHT?
I WANT PIGGY-BACK!
YOU ALWAYS TELL ME I'M ZERO YEARS OLD!
THERE MUST BE A HOUSE SOMEWHERE NEARBY.
SNIFF
?
DASH

YOU CAN'T STAY. THERE'S BEEN SICKNESS IN OUR FAMILY.
WA-TER?!
OKAY, MAY WE HAVE A GLASS OF WATER?
WE DON'T HAVE NO WATER!
GET OUT OF HERE!
YES! THERE'S A LIT HOUSE UP AHEAD.
WHERE'S THAT DOG NOW? I HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT DIRECTION.


LET 'EM STAY.
MA, THAT PATH IS WAY TOO DANGEROUS AT NIGHT.
A LITTLE WAYS FROM HERE'S A MANSION. THEY CAN HAVE YOU. HURRY AND GO!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
JUSHT GIVE IT TO ME.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT... THERE'S SOME WATER IN THIS CANTEEN. CAREFUL WITH IT.
USE MY FUTON IF YOU WANNA SLEEP.
ICK !!
I'M 18 !!
HOW OLD ARE YA? FIVE?
GRIN

ウオーーッウウ
OOOOH UHHH
ウ…ウ….
SHE'S JUST TIRED. LET HER SLEEP, YEAH?
I'M NOT PLAYIN' WITH A LIAR.
ウオーーッ
OOOOH
MY BROTHER? HE'S A WERE-WOLF.
ウオーーーー
WOOAHH
IS HE THE ONE WHO'S SICK?
MY BIG BRO.
UM... WHAT WAS THAT ?
UHH
UHH
ウオーーーーン
OOOOAAH
HE'S TURNIN' INTO A WOLF. LI'L BY LI'L...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, EXACTLY ?

STAY OUT. DON'T LOOK AT ME, WHOEVER YOU ARE!
HUFF
HAA
SKRCH
SKRCH
PANT
AAARGH!

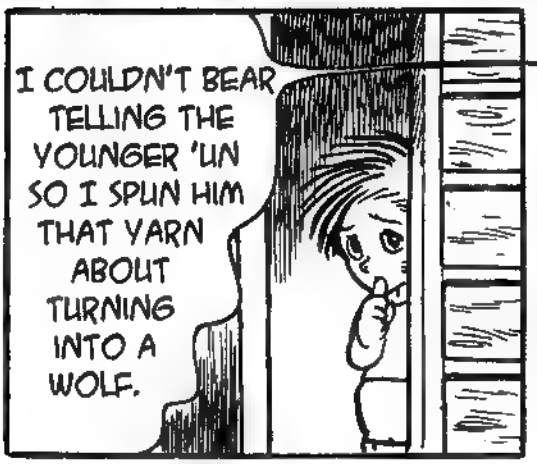
THE FIT AT THE SIGHT OF WATER, THE CANINE MANNERISMS... TEXTBOOK SYMPTOMS.
A CLEAR CASE OF RABIES.
HAA
WAS IT A FOREIGN BREED WITH A COLLAR? I SAW IT.
TELL ME, WHEN AND WHERE!
...
WHEN WERE YOU BITTEN?
LEAVE HIM ALONE!!
HE HAS TWO DAYS AT MOST.
TAKE HIM TO A HOSPITAL FIRST THING TOMORROW.
WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?
DID THAT DOG BITE YOU?
HE WASN'T BITTEN BY NO DOG. HE'S TURNIN' INTO A WOLF.

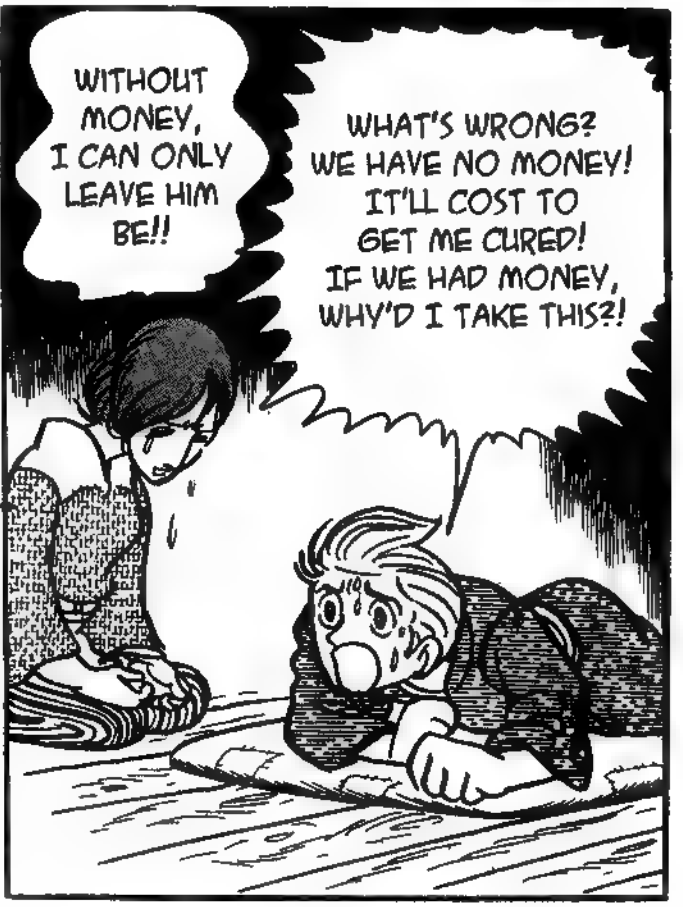
MY SON... SO BE IT! LET HIM TURN INTO A DOG, OR A WOLF... "SOB" "SOB"
DON'T YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR SON?
IF WE LEAVE HIM ALONE, MA'AM, HE WILL DIE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE?

HE'S TURNIN' INTO A WOLF.
L I A R
KID, YOUR BROTHER IS DYING.

YOU'D REALLY WATCH HIM DIE!
AND SO YOU'RE JUST WAITING FOR HIM TO DIE.


I COULDN'T BEAR TELLING THE YOUNGER 'UN SO I SPUN HIM THAT YARN ABOUT TURNING INTO A WOLF.

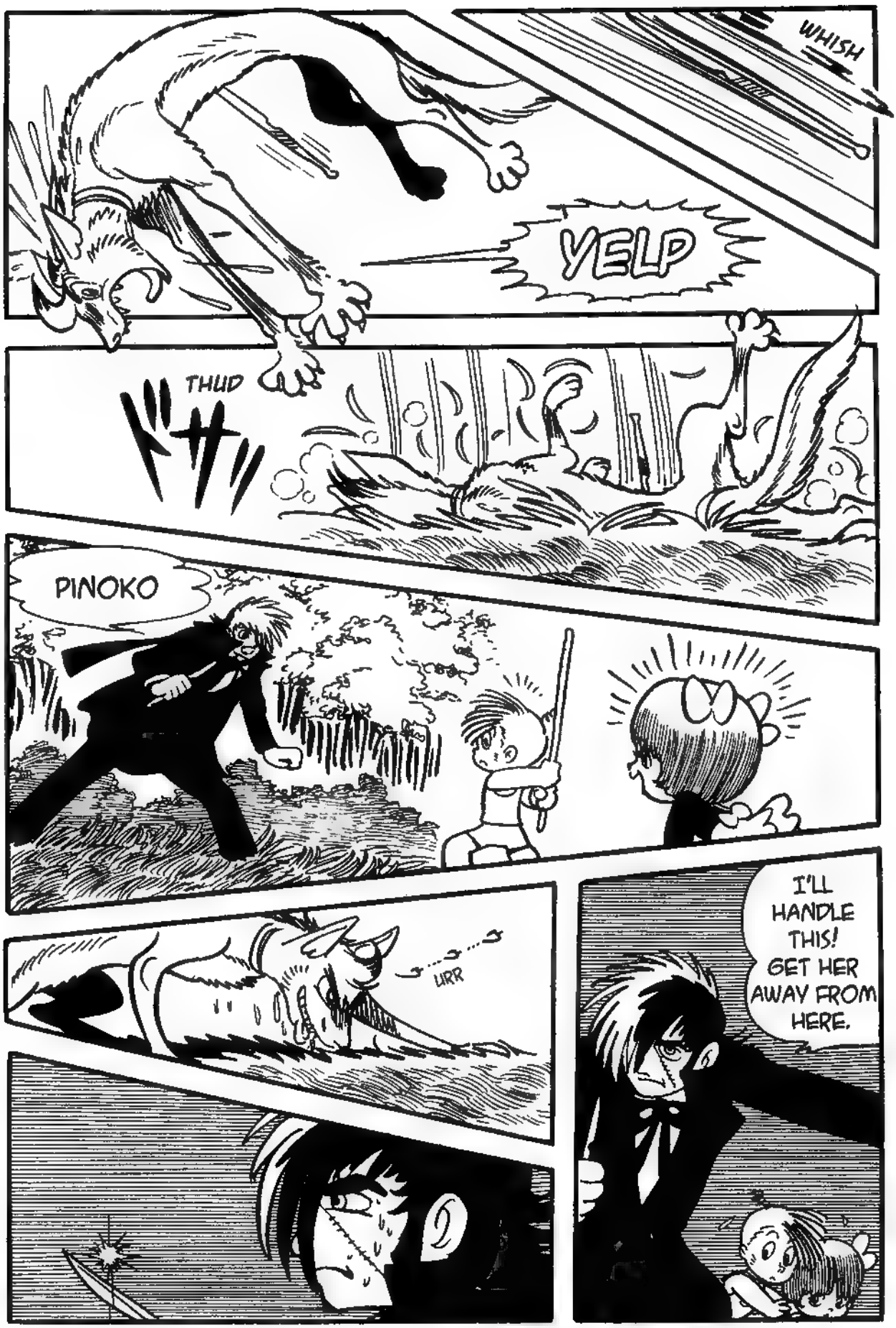

WITHOUT MONEY, I CAN ONLY LEAVE HIM BE!!
WHAT'S WRONG? WE HAVE NO MONEY! IT'LL COST TO GET ME CURED! IF WE HAD MONEY, WHY'D I TAKE THIS?!

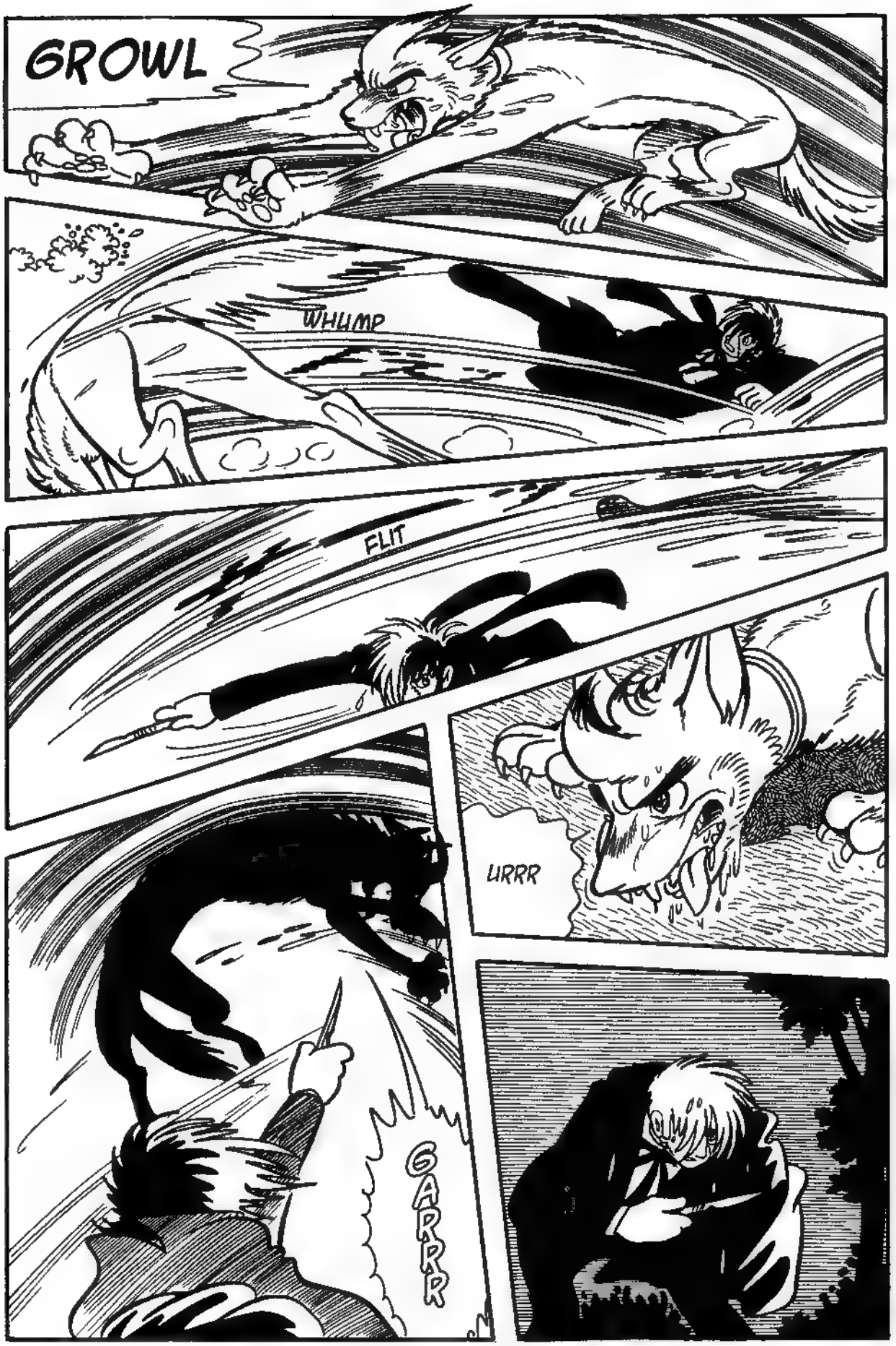
THIS LAND WE LIVE ON IS THEIRS AND... WE DAREN'T TROUBLE THEM! PLEASE DON'T!
I'M GOING TO BORROW THEIR CAR.
N-NO, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
YOU WON'T EVEN TRY, HUH?
I'M OFF TO THAT MANSION.

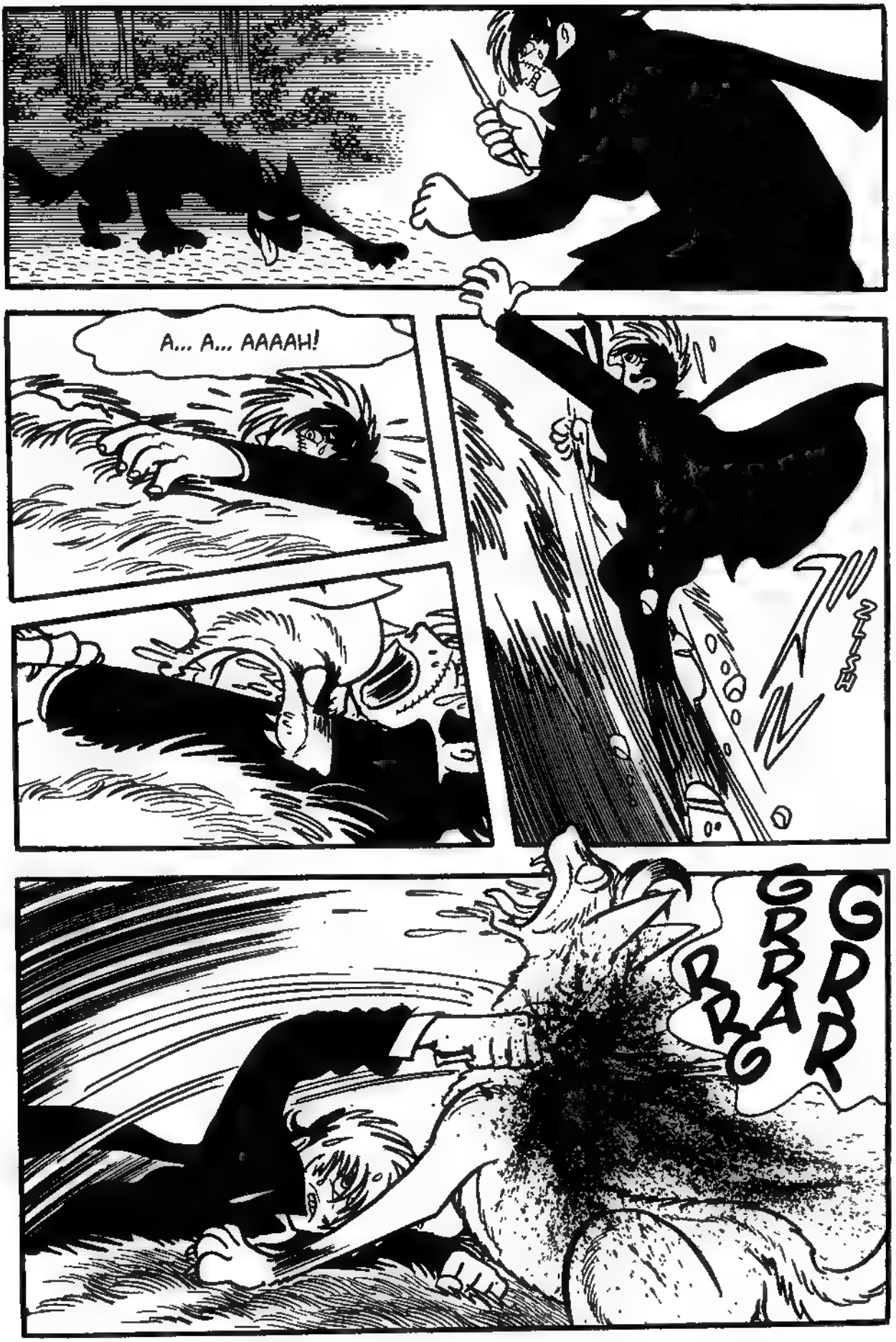
DOC-
TO~R
DOC-
TOR
MNN
NN
...
DOC-
TOR
...
I'LL
COME
WITH
YOU!
WHERE
DID HE
GO
?!
HE
LEFT
A
WHILE
AGO.
DOC...TO~R!
DOCTOR!!
HOW
CAN YOU
LEAVE
WITHOUT
PINOKO
?
WATCH
YOUR STEP.
DON'T LEGGO
OF MY HAND.

EEEEP!
AAAH
WHAT IS IT, PINOKO ?!
HAH
HAH
DOGOIR
THE FOOL! HAD TO WAKE UP, DIDN'T SHE?

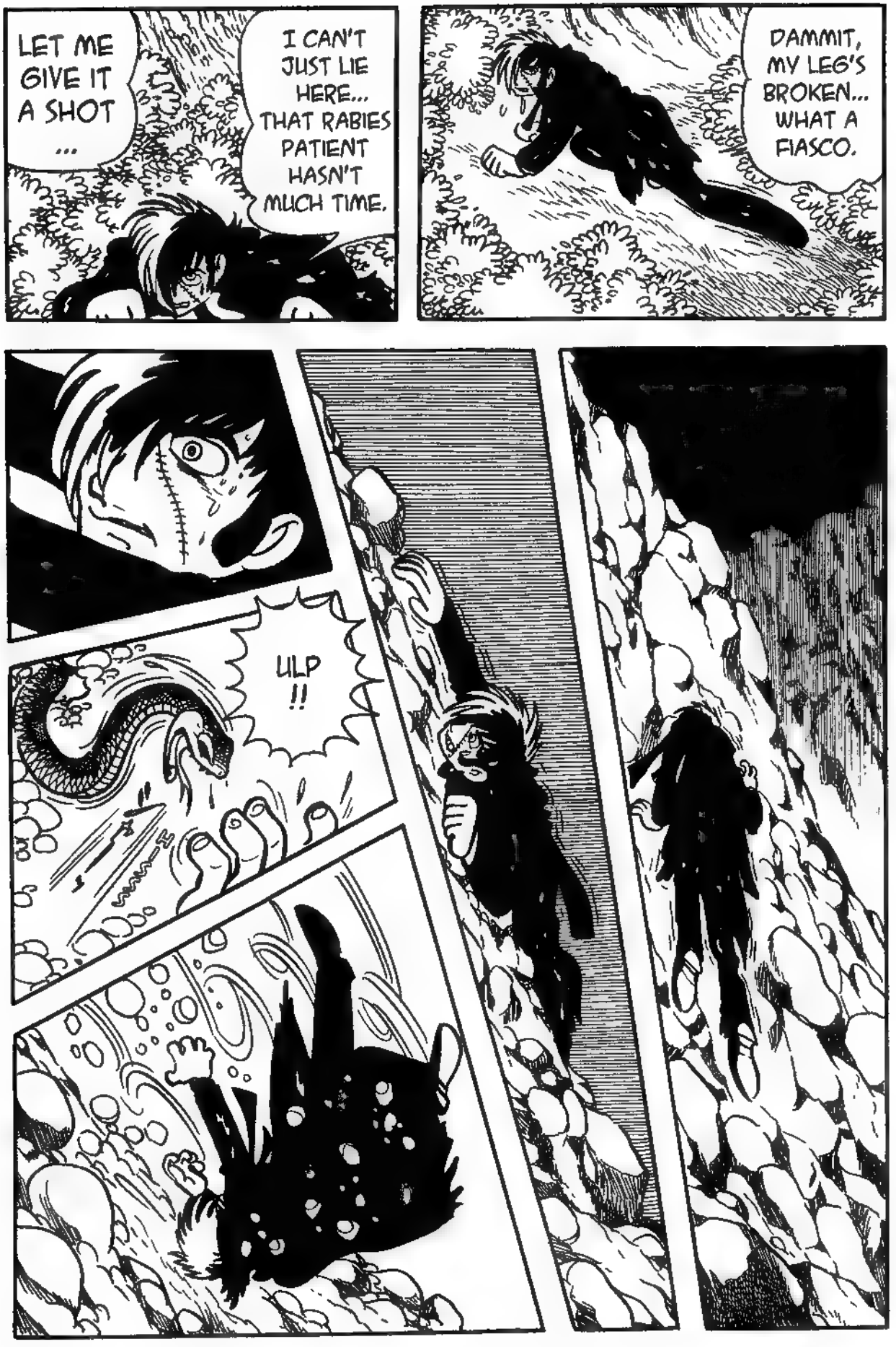
EEEEP!!
HELP!!
URRR
C'MON!

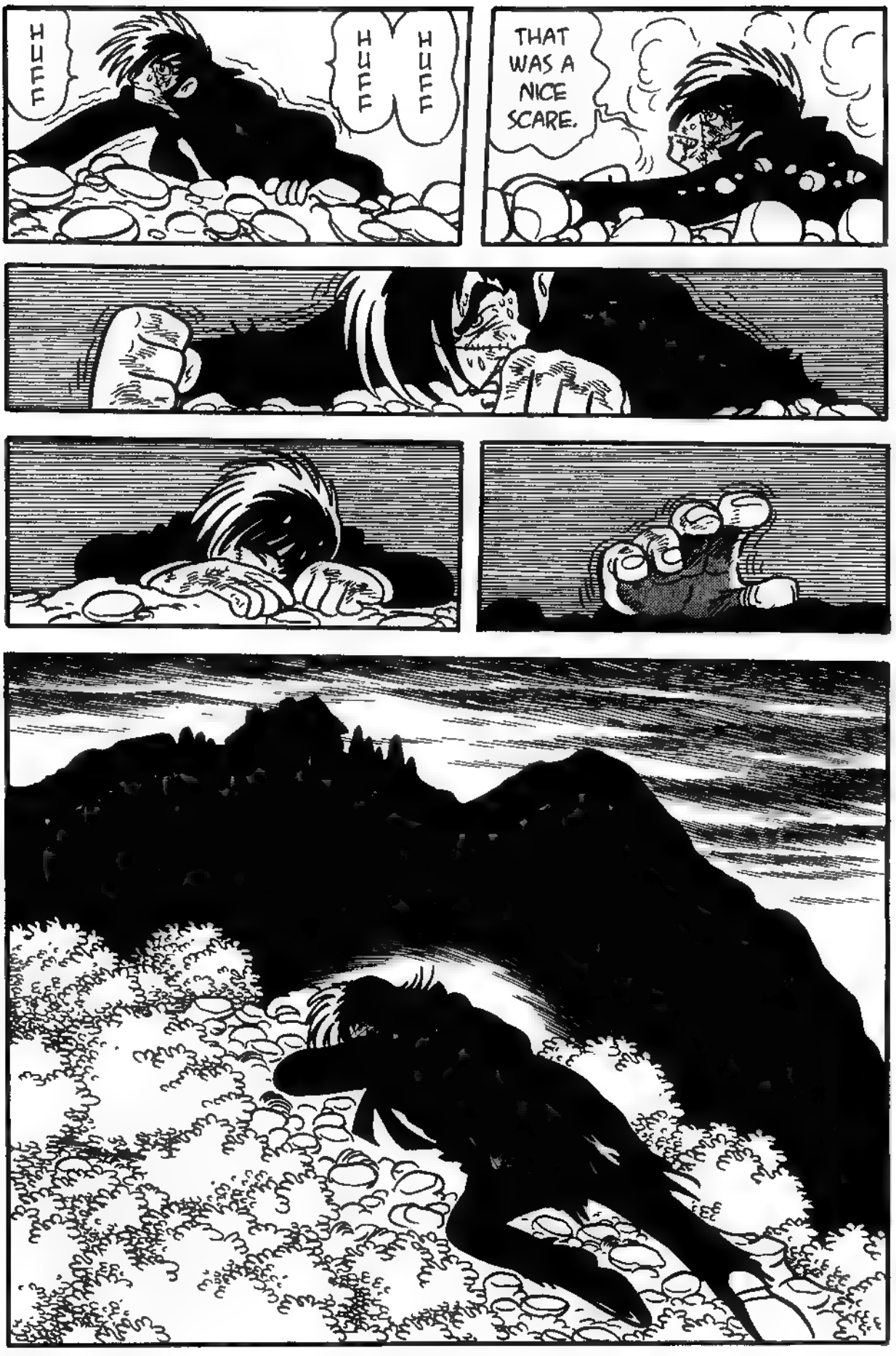

WHISH
YELP
THUD
PINOKO
URR
I'LL HANDLE THIS! GET HER AWAY FROM HERE.

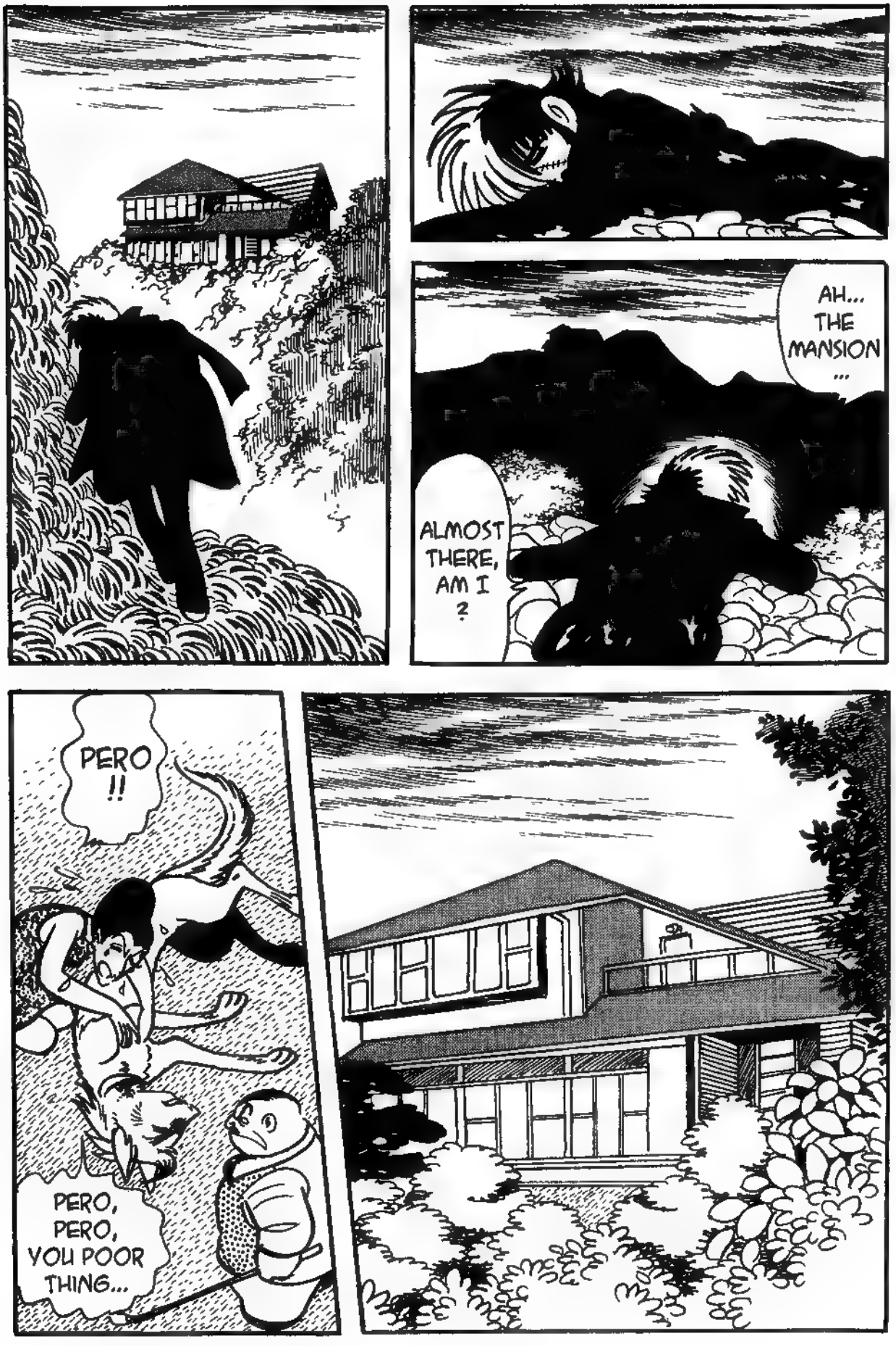

GROWL
WHUMP
FLIT
LIRRR
GARRR


A... A... AAAAH!
GRRR
GRRR
GRRR

AAAHHH!
OHHH
THUD
WHAM


LET ME GIVE IT A SHOT ...
I CAN'T JUST LIE HERE... THAT RABIES PATIENT HASN'T MUCH TIME.
DAMMIT, MY LEG'S BROKEN... WHAT A FIASCO.
ULP !!


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THAT WAS A NICE SCARE.


AH... THE MANSION ...
ALMOST THERE, AM I ?
PERO !!
PERO, PERO, YOU POOR THING...

WHAT DO YOU WANT ?
WHO'S THIS SO EARLY ?
CAR... L-LEND ME YOUR CAR ...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED PERO?!
THAT DOG... WAS RABID. I HAD TO KILL IT.
HEY... YOU'RE BADLY HURT !
YOUR DOG BIT AND INFECTED A MAN DOWNHILL. HE'S GONE UNTREATED FOR WANT OF MONEY.
I'M ASKING YOU TO LEND ME YOUR CAR.
I'M TAKING HIM TO A HOSPITAL, TODAY.
WAIT A MINUTE. I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS IS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT WHERE'S THE PROOF THAT OUR DOG INFECTED HIM?
HOW DARE YOU SAY OUR PERO WAS RABID ?!
HE WAS A MONGREL OF THE HIGHEST PEDIGREE!!

YOU'D RATHER NOT ACCEPT THAT YOUR DOG HAD RABIES?
PINNING THE BLAME ON OUR PERO !
YOU HAVE SOME NERVE
I BET THE FELLOW WAS GIVEN IT BY SOME NAMELESS STRAY.
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE WOUNDED. OTHERWISE I'D THRASH YOU.
OR RATHER, YOU'D BETTER PAY UP FOR KILLING OUR PERO!
YOU WON'T GET ANYTHING FROM US, SO JUST LEAVE IN PEACE.
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I'M ABOUT TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE RABID. HEHEH...

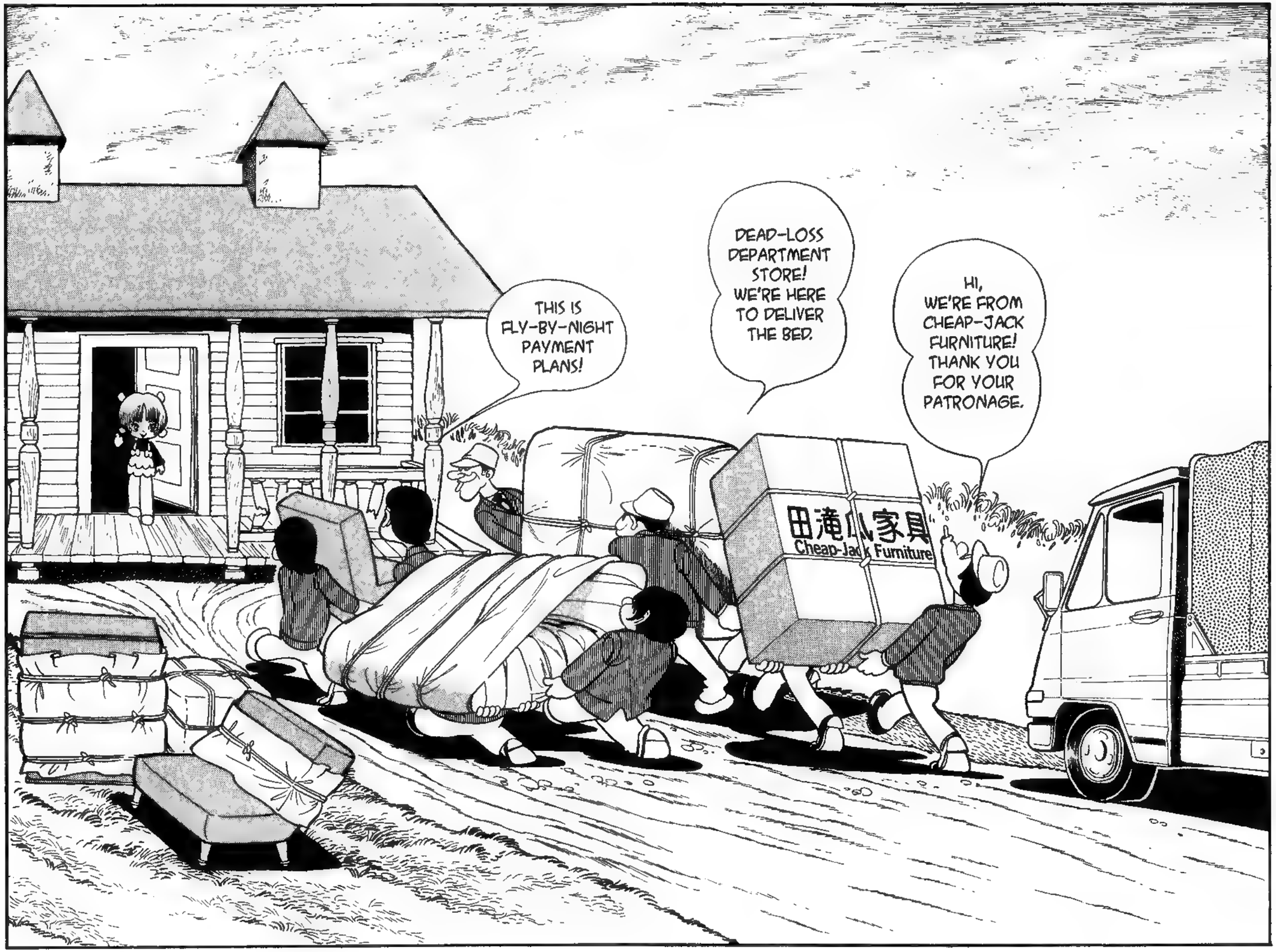
I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY SEEING ME TWO MONTHS FROM NOW.
...
...

WHY, ISN'T THAT A SNUG FIT.
WANT TO SEE IF THEY MATCH ?

IF I COME DOWN WITH RABIES, THAT'LL BE PROOF.
THE GESTATION PERIOD IS TWENTY TO SIXTY DAYS.

BROMMM
MAY I COUNT ON YOUR SILENCE?
HEY, DOCTOR, YOUR ARM ...
WE'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL ...
LOAD HIM ONTO THIS CAR,
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH MONEY, IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!

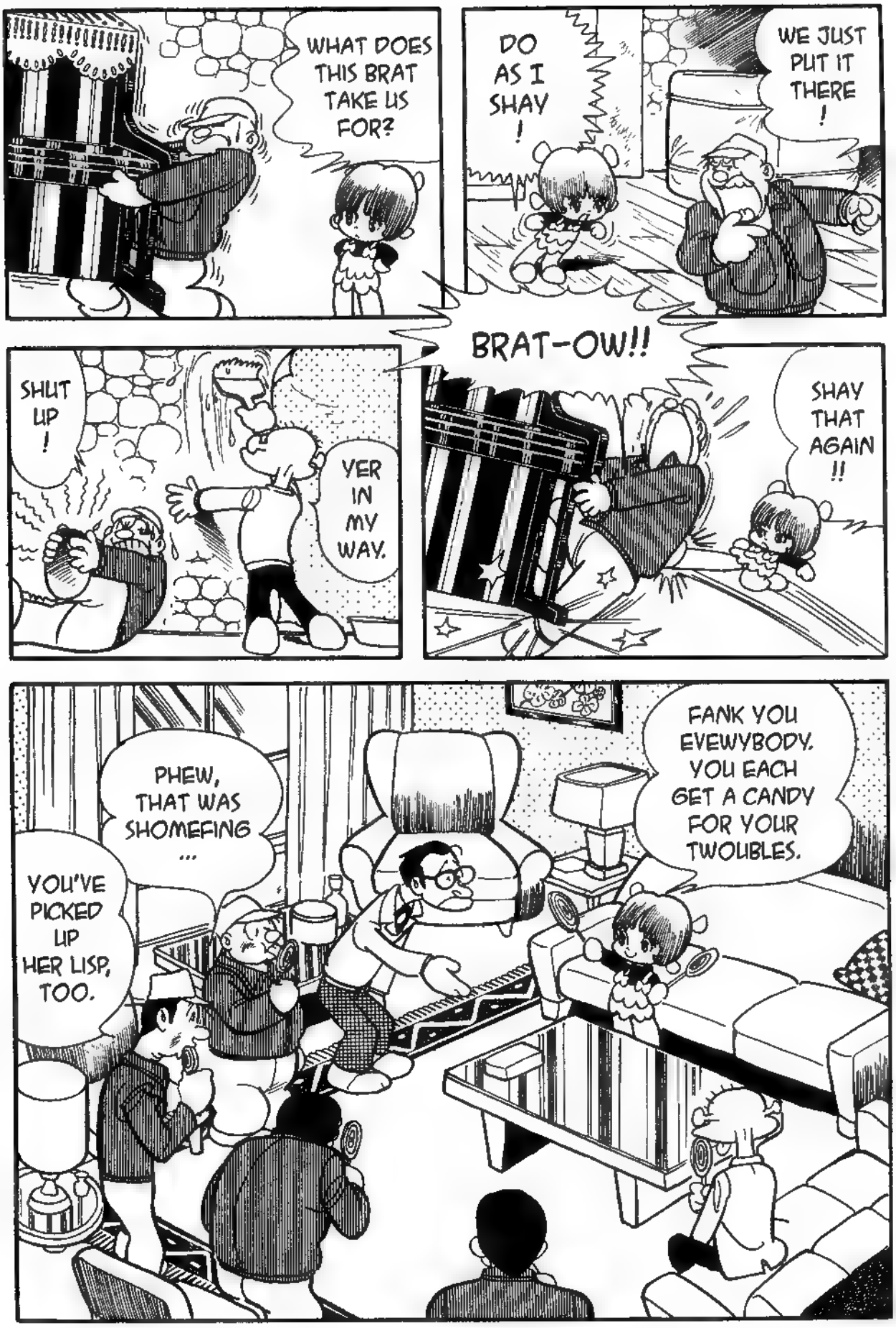
FITS

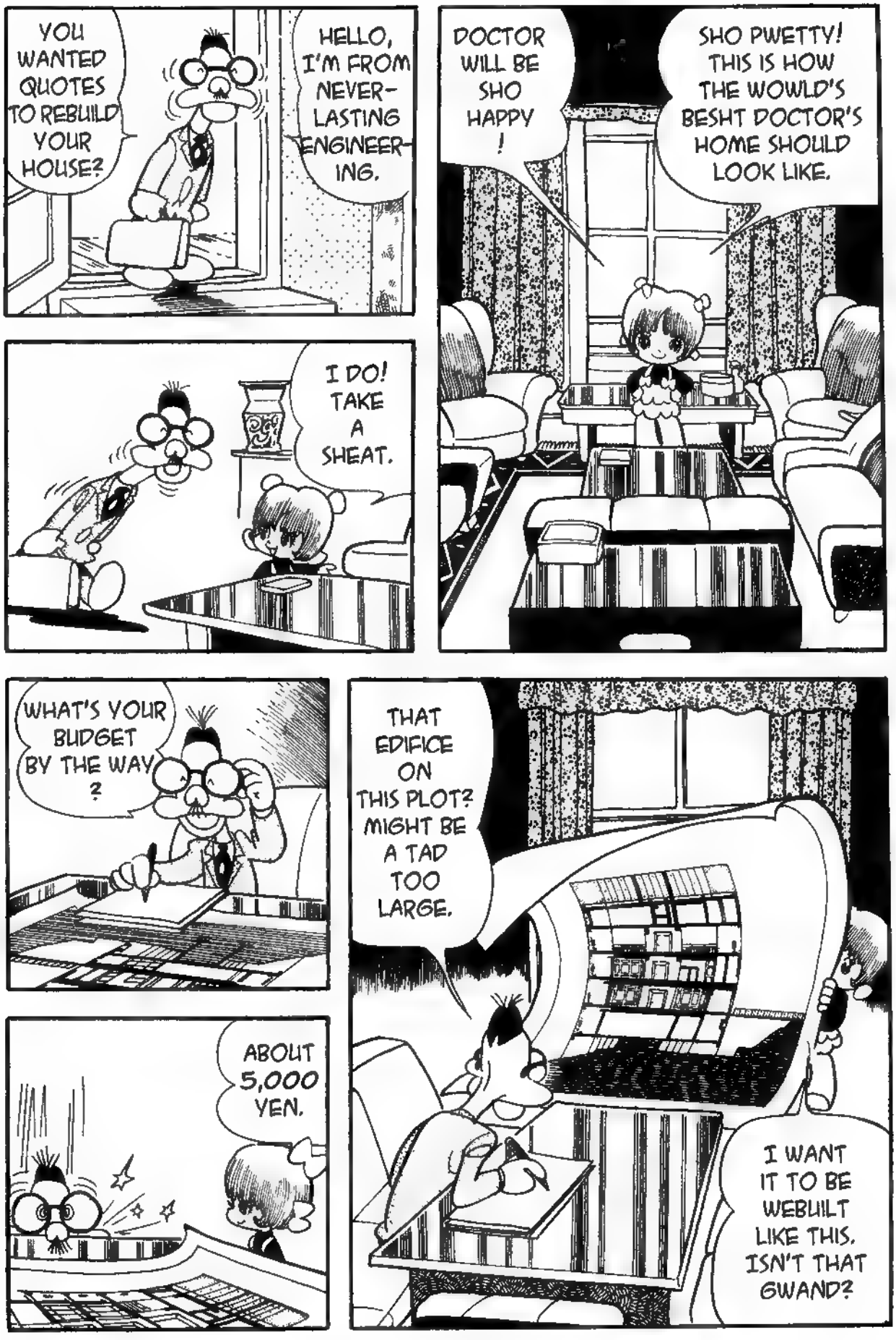

THIS IS FLY-BY-NIGHT PAYMENT PLANS!
DEAD-LOSS DEPARTMENT STORE! WE'RE HERE TO DELIVER THE BED.
HI, WE'RE FROM CHEAP-JACK FURNITURE! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.
田淹八家具
Cheap-Jack Furniture

33

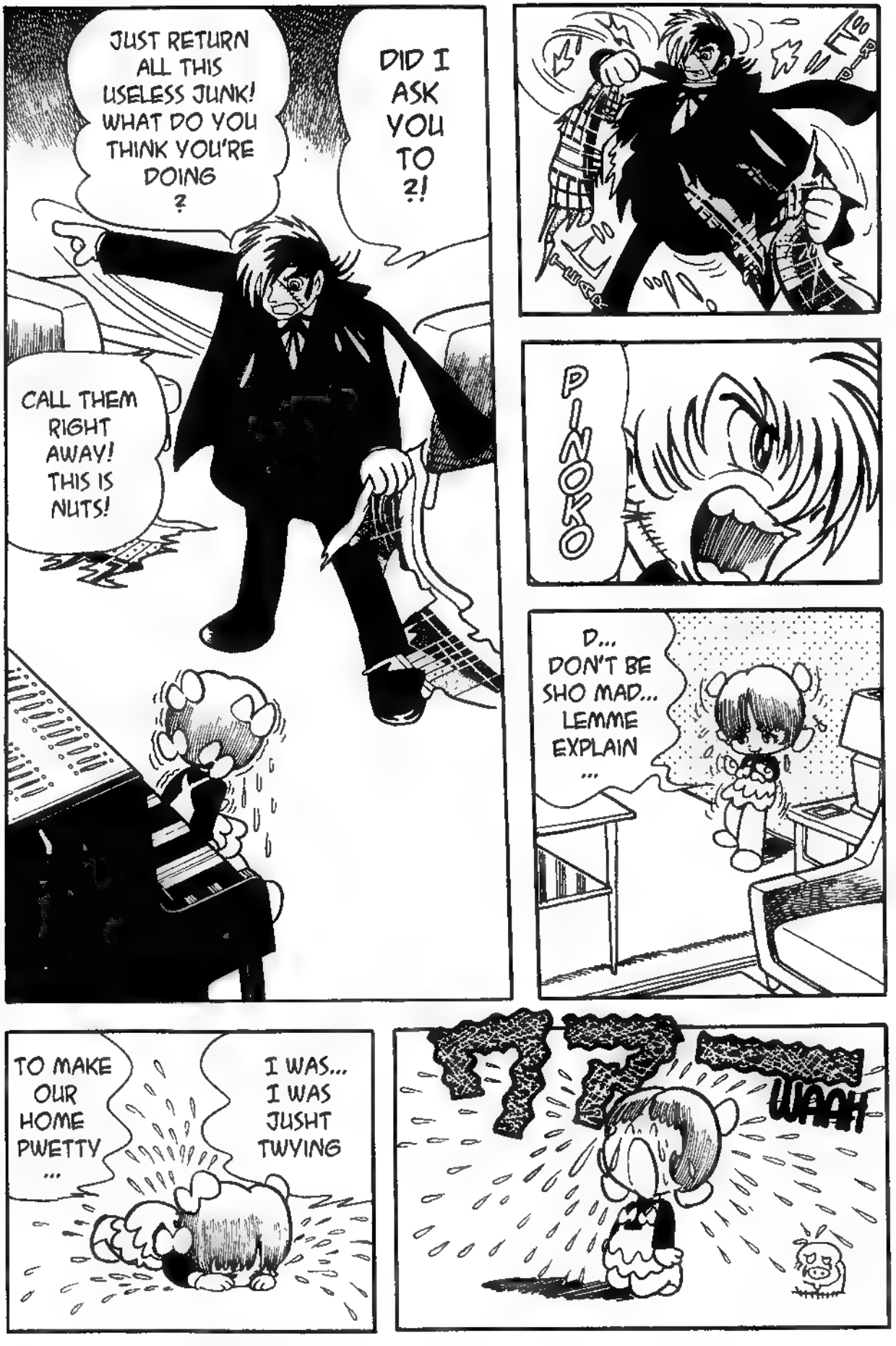
32

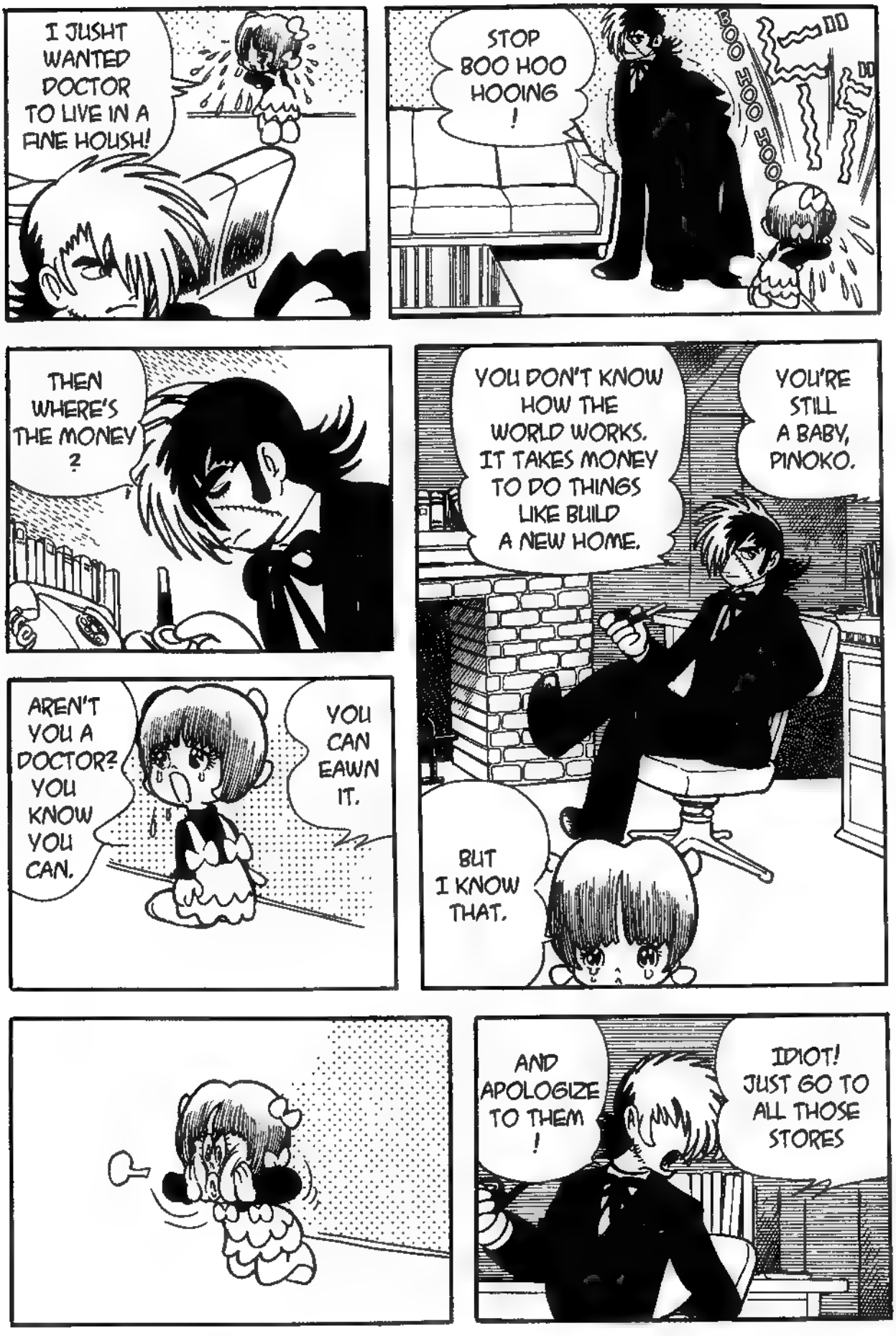
WHERE'D YOU LIKE THE PIANO, LITTLE MISS?
BWING IT WIGHT THIS WAY.
OWWW!
DUMB ASH !
SORRY, LITTLE MISS.
SHAV THAT AGAIN WIJOUT THE "LITTLE" !
HELLO! DID YA ORDER WALLPAPER ?
THEN MAKE THE WINDOW BIGGER !
I'M AFRAID THIS CURTAIN IS TOO LARGE FOR YOUR WINDOW.
WALLPAPER? NOW?!
MOVE THAT AWAY.
I... I CAN'T DO THAT ...


WHAT DOES THIS BRAT TAKE US FOR?
DO AS I SHAY !
WE JUST PUT IT THERE !
BRAT-OW!!
SHUT UP !
YER IN MY WAY.
SHAY THAT AGAIN !!
PHEW, THAT WAS SHOMEFING ...
YOU'VE PICKED UP HER LISP, TOO.
FANK YOU EVEWYBODY. YOU EACH GET A CANDY FOR YOUR TWOUBLES.


YOU WANTED QUOTES TO REBUILD YOUR HOUSE?
HELLO, I'M FROM NEVER-LASTING ENGINEER-ING.
I DO! TAKE A SHEAT.
DOCTOR WILL BE SHO HAPPY !
SHO PWETTY! THIS IS HOW THE WOWLD'S BESHT DOCTOR'S HOME SHOULD LOOK LIKE.
WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET BY THE WAY ?
ABOUT 5,000 YEN.
THAT EDIFICE ON THIS PLOT? MIGHT BE A TAD TOO LARGE.
I WANT IT TO BE WEBUILT LIKE THIS. ISN'T THAT GWAND?

YOU'RE AS GWEEDY AS A HIJACKER !
500 MILLION WOULD BE A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE.
YOU'LL NEED FIVE MORE O'S THAN THAT!
WH... WHAT A THING TO SAY !
WOULD YOU BE RELATED TO HIJACK?
BLACK JACK, THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE.
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE ?
GET LOST. RIGHT NOW !
LEAVE!
I DON'T REQUIRE YOUR SERVICES.

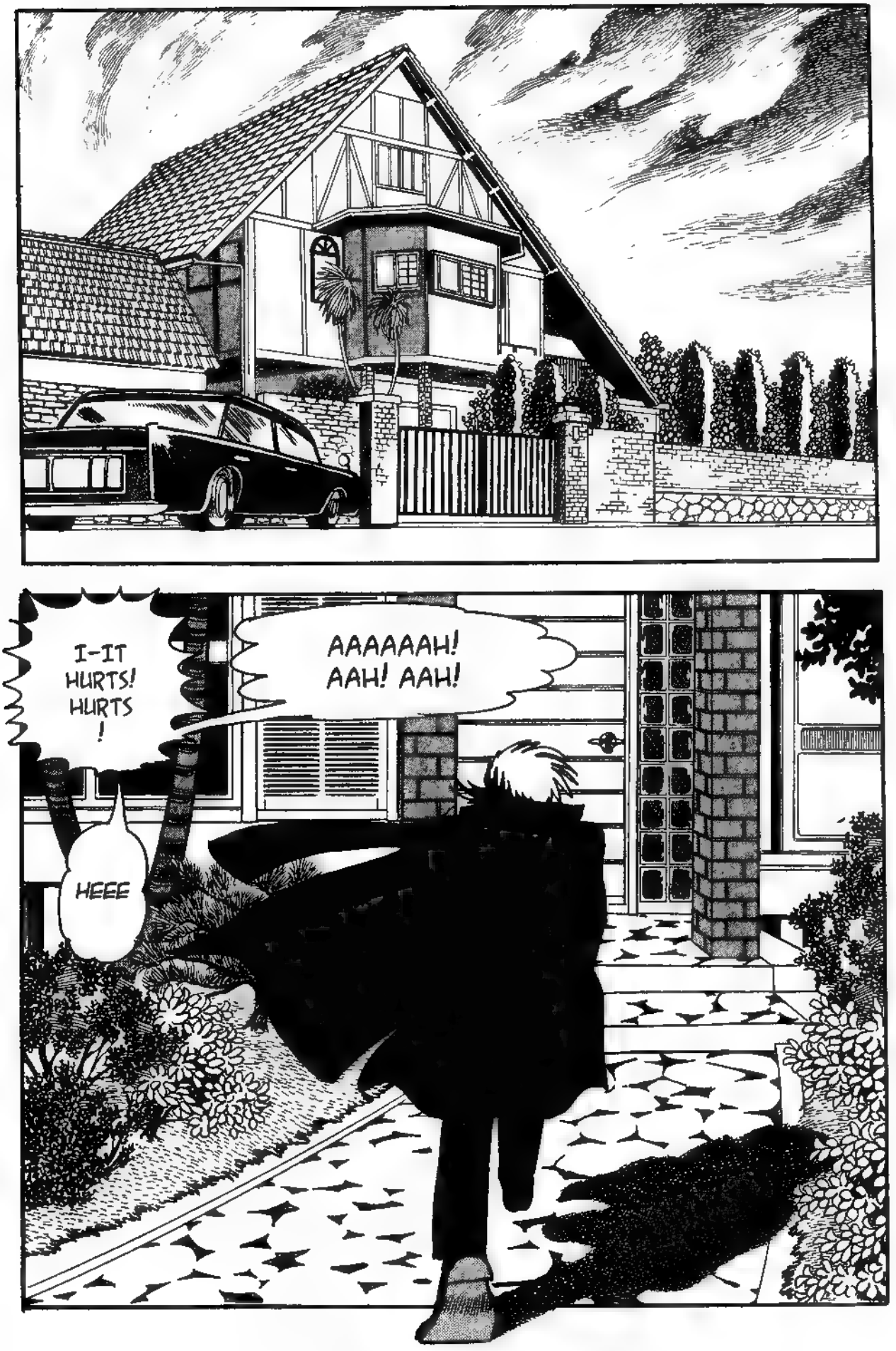

DID I ASK YOU TO ?!
JUST RETURN ALL THIS USELESS JUNK! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?
CALL THEM RIGHT AWAY! THIS IS NUTS!
PINOKO
D... DON'T BE SHO MAD... LEMME EXPLAIN ...
I WAS... I WAS JUSHT TWYING
TO MAKE OUR HOME PWETTY ...
WAAH


I JUSHT WANTED DOCTOR TO LIVE IN A FINE HOUSH!
STOP BOO HOO HOOING !
BOO HOO HOO
THEN WHERE'S THE MONEY ?
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THE WORLD WORKS. IT TAKES MONEY TO DO THINGS LIKE BUILD A NEW HOME.
YOU'RE STILL A BABY, PINOKO.
AREN'T YOU A DOCTOR? YOU KNOW YOU CAN.
YOU CAN EAWN IT.
BUT I KNOW THAT.
AND APOLOGIZE TO THEM !
IDIOT! JUST GO TO ALL THOSE STORES

NO. GET GOING.
MAY I PLAY IT JUSHT ONE TIME ?
...
MEANIE
DON'T STEP ON THE DOORMAT, WE'RE RETURNING IT TOO.

UH HUH. PLEASE COME PICK THEM UP.
LISTEN, I'M REALLY SORRY BUT...
IS THIS THE FURNITURE STORE ?
HELLO, MAY I HAVE THE FURNITURE DEPART-MENT?
RRRRR
...
DOC-TOR !
DOCTOR !!

WHERE? ...OKAY. YOU COME BACK HOME, PINOKO...
SHE'S CWAZY WITH PAIN. SHE'S CWYING "I'M GONNA DIE!" COME QUICKLY, DOCTOR.
WHAT IS IT, PINOKO?
I FOUND A SHUPER-DUPER PASHIENT!
PATIENT?
SHE'S SHO ILL. IT'S KIND OF SHCAWY! SHE WANTS AN OPEWATION!
I SAID, COME BACK!
OKAY, OKAY. BUT JUSHT CHARGE THEM A LOT!!
WE'LL HAVE THE MONEY THEN, WIGHT?


I-IT HURTS! HURTS !
AAAAAAH! AAH! AAH!
HEEE

THIS WAY PLEASE... IT'S MY DAUGHTER.
HELP!! IT HURTS! WON'T SOMEBODY HELP ME ?!
I'M GONNA DIE !
" PANT " " PANT "

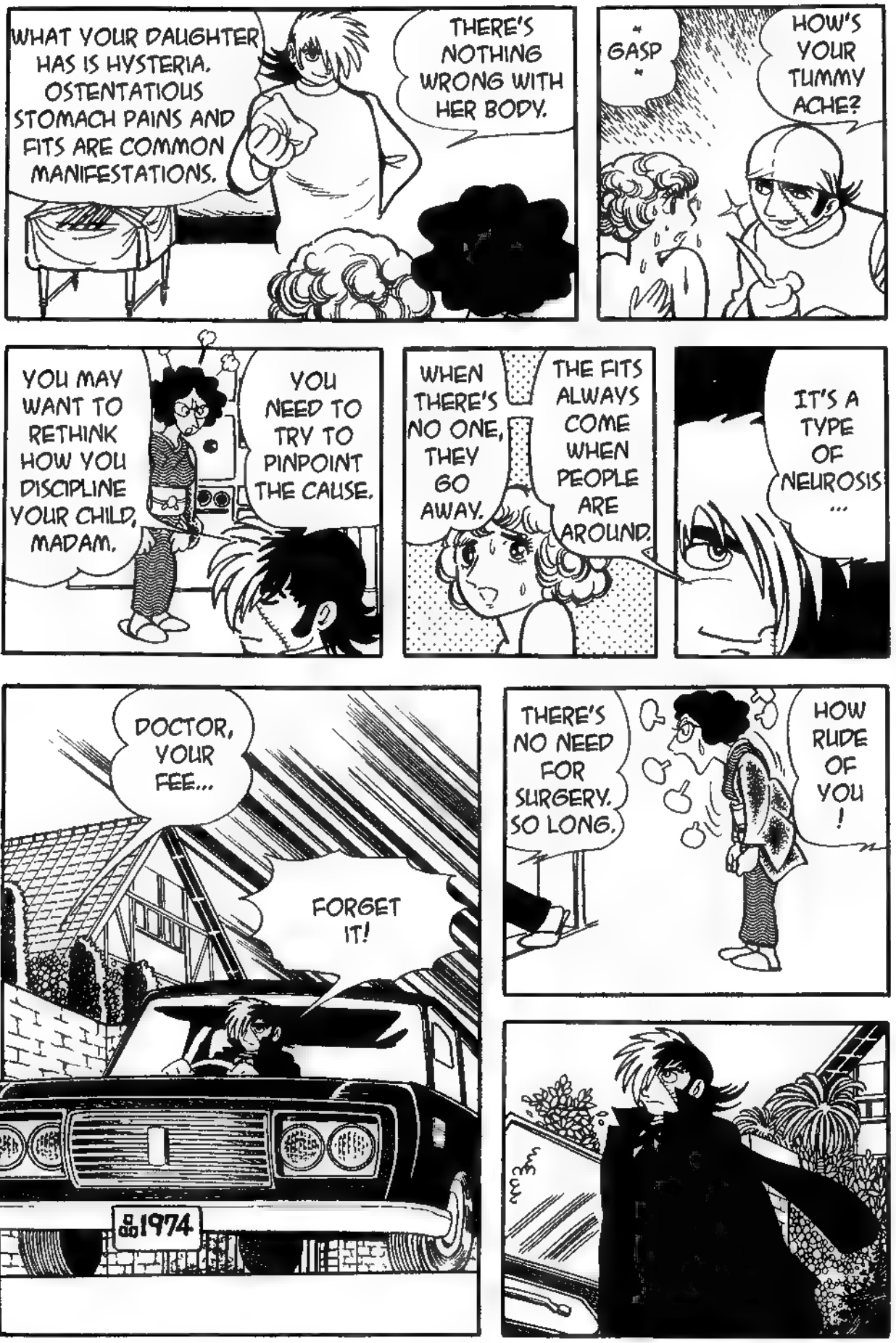
HMM ...
SHE COMPLAINED OF INTENSE PAIN ALL OF A SUDDEN. A TWIST IN THE INTESTINES? PANCREATITIS?
WHEN DID THIS START ?
YOU'RE AWFULLY SAVVY, MADAM.
IS THAT SO? COULD IT BE STOMACH CANCER? DID IT RUPTURE?
DOES HAVE A SLIGHT ONE...
SHE'D HAVE A HIGH FEVER IN THOSE CASES.
QUIET DOWN PLEASE.
JUST LET ME DIE!!
IT HURTS LIKE HELL! MY STOMACH... MAMA!
I'M A FELLOW INTEL-LECTUAL ...
I DO SIT ON THE SCHOOL BOARD.
A FEW TIMES. BUT NEVER AS BAD AS THIS.
DID THIS EVER HAPPEN BEFORE?

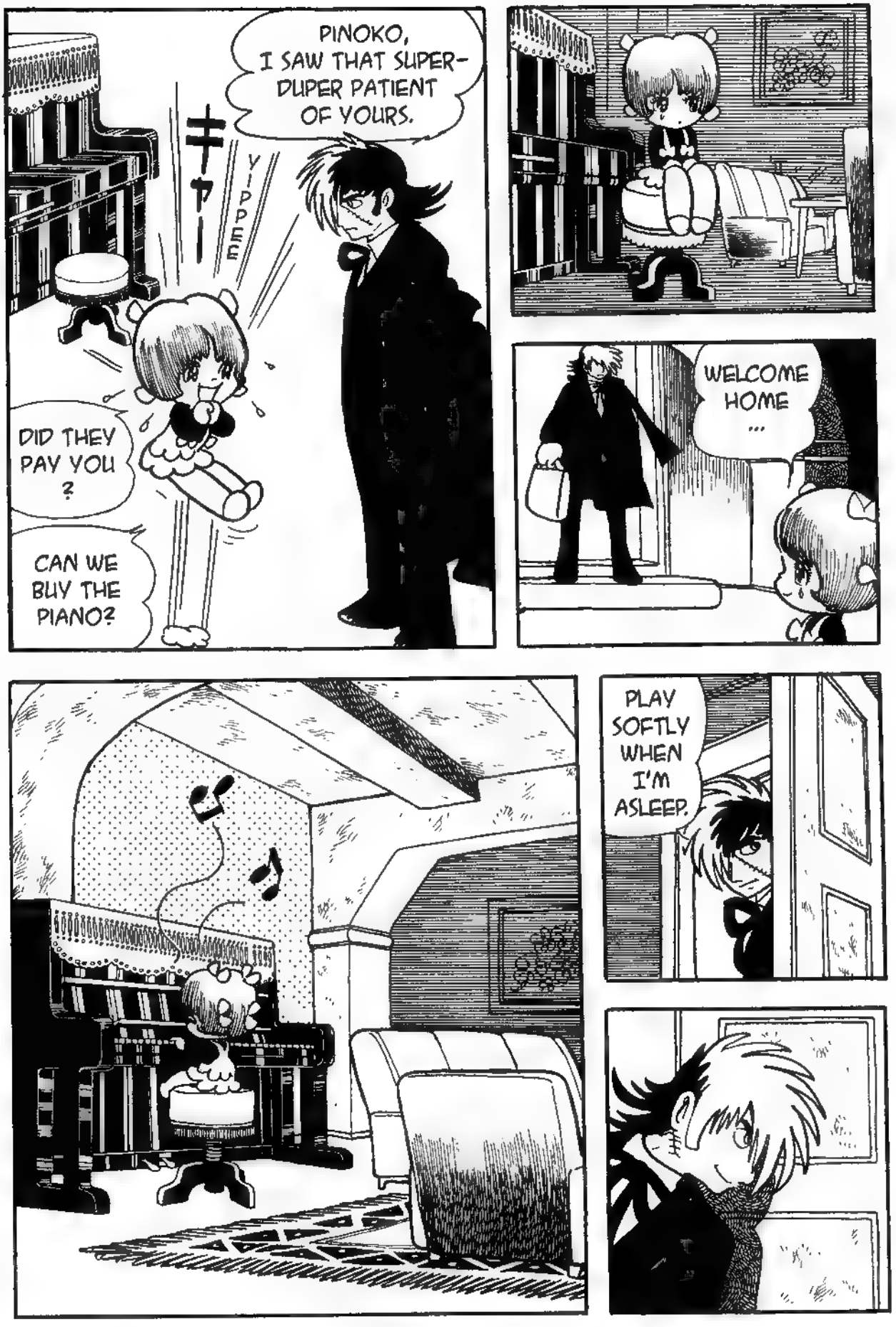
AAH
AAH
HEEE
MAMA, HELP ME! SOMEBODY HELP ME!
...
UHHHHH
...
I'LL OPERATE. PLEASE STEP OUT.
RIGHT NOW, OR IT'LL BE TOO LATE.
BUT ...
LET ME PREPARE FOR IT.

...
UNNPH
UHHH
PANT
PANT
BAM
SLAP
...
Y...
YOU WERE
TOO LATE!
I'M DYING,
YOU
QUACK!!

AIIEEE!!
NOOO!
PLEASE DON'T ...!
STOP !!
LAP
LAP

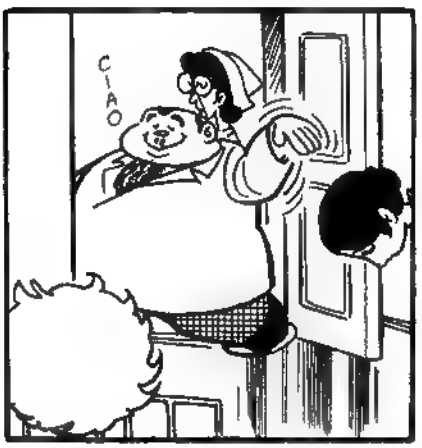
AAGH
MAMA!!
AIEE
YOU LECHER !!
WHAT IS THIS ?!
HE'S LYING. H-HE WAS ABOUT TO ...
ALL I DID WAS DISROBE HER FOR SURGERY.

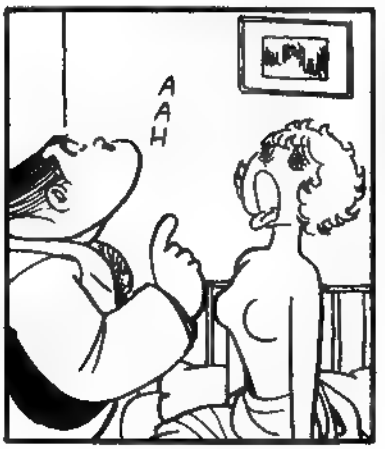

WHAT YOUR DAUGHTER HAS IS HYSTERIA. OSTENTATIOUS STOMACH PAINS AND FITS ARE COMMON MANIFESTATIONS.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HER BODY.
GASP
HOW'S YOUR TUMMY ACHE?
YOU MAY WANT TO RETHINK HOW YOU DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILD, MADAM.
YOU NEED TO TRY TO PINPOINT THE CAUSE.
WHEN THERE'S NO ONE, THEY GO AWAY.
THE FITS ALWAYS COME WHEN PEOPLE ARE AROUND.
IT'S A TYPE OF NEUROSIS ...
DOCTOR, YOUR FEE...
FORGET IT!
1974
THERE'S NO NEED FOR SURGERY. SO LONG.
HOW RUDE OF YOU !

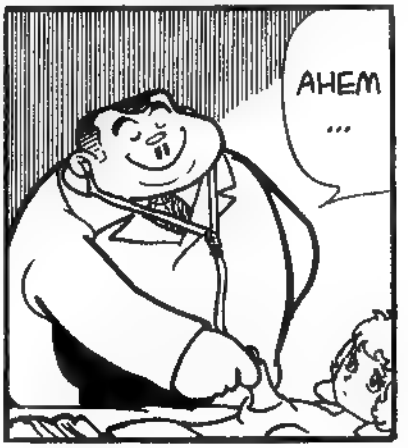

PINOKO, I SAW THAT SUPER-DUPER PATIENT OF YOURS.
キャー
YIPPEE
DID THEY PAY YOU ?
CAN WE BUY THE PIANO?
WELCOME HOME ...
PLAY SOFTLY WHEN I'M ASLEEP.

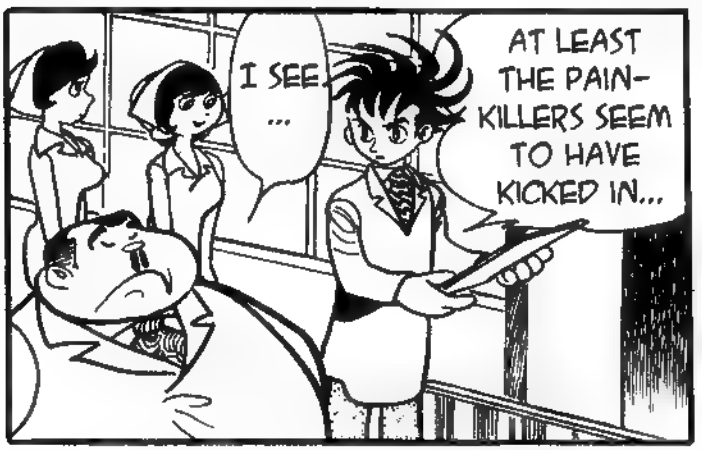
A WRONG DIAGNOSIS

AHEM


CIAO


AAH


AHEM
...


I SEE
...
AT LEAST THE PAIN-KILLERS SEEM TO HAVE KICKED IN...

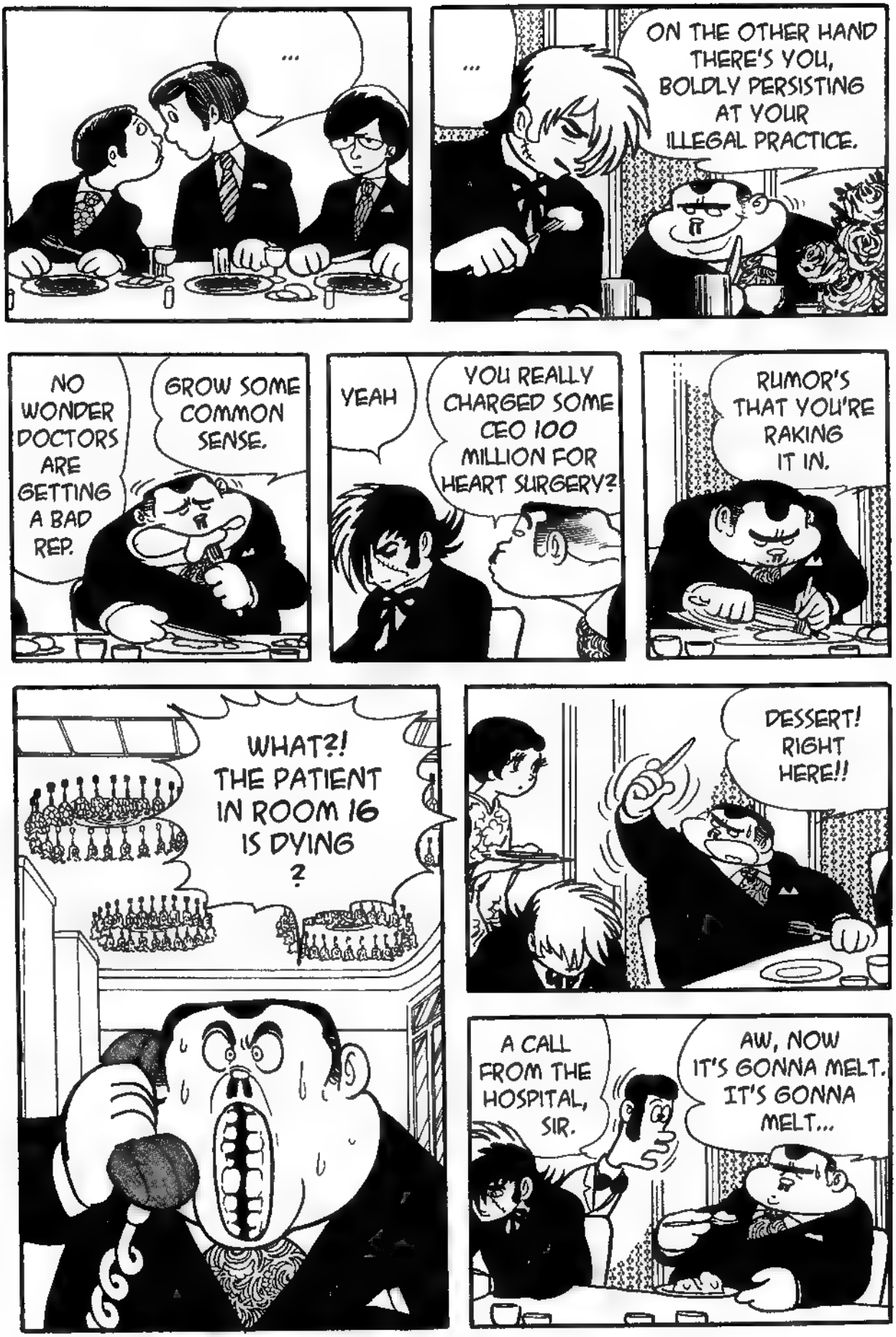
HOW IS THE PATIENT IN ROOM 16 DOING ?
HEY, ITO, I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE FOR A WEDDING PARTY.

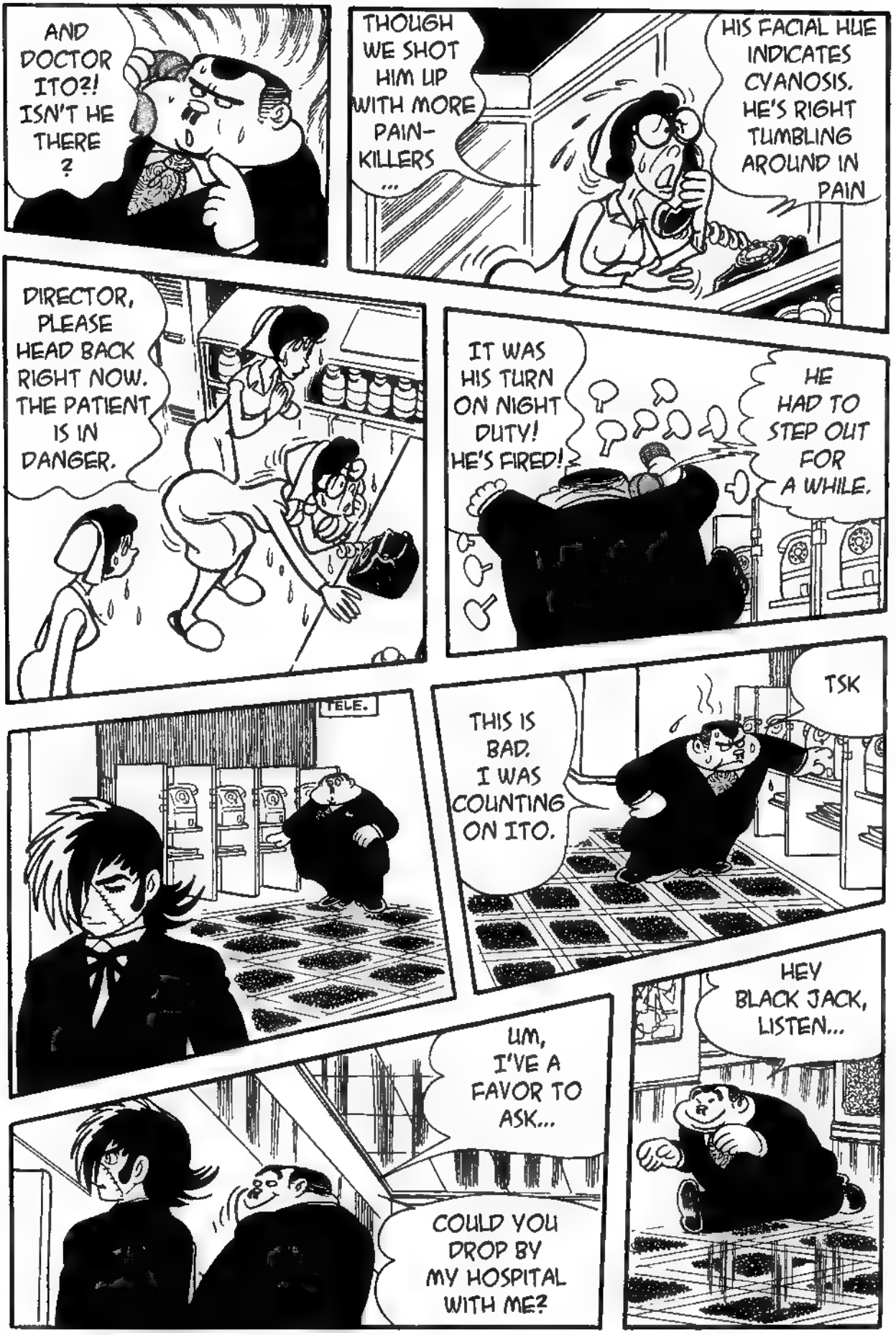
WITH MILD PERITONITIS, IT'S BETTER NOT TO DO ANYTHING INVASIVE.
HANDLE THE REST.

HIS PAIN SEEMS TO BE SEVERE, AND HE VOMITS...
ARE WE SURE IT'S JUST A CASE OF PERITONITIS ?
IF I MAY
BE SO BOLD, BOSS,
BUT THAT WAS TWO YEARS AGO.
I'M AFRAID HE WASN'T FULLY HEALED OF APPENDICITIS.
THAT PALLOR IS THE LOOK OF PERITONITIS.
DIDN'T YOU SEE HIS FACE ?
THEN STICK TO MY ORDERS !
ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY DIAGNOSIS ?!
WHAT'S MORE, I'M THE DIRECTOR!
ITO, I'VE BEEN DOING THIS MUCH LONGER THAN ALL OF YOU GREENHORNS.
I-I KNOW

I'D UP AND LEAVE IN A HEARTBEAT.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE GREAT PAY...
YOU QUACK !
TSK... I'M A GREEN-HORN?
AHEM!! I'D LIKE TO GIVE MY FELICITATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE GROOM'S FORMER CLASSMATES.
HE HASN'T CHANGED.
HE CAN'T RESIST, CAN HE?
AHEM
EVER SINCE GRADUATION, WE HAVE, AS DOCTORS...

...
HOW DID YOU LIKE MY SPEECH? NOT BAD, EH?
YEAH
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR LICENSE YET?
SORRY... I HADN'T NOTICED.
NOW WHO IS THIS BUT BLACK JACK ?
YOU'D BRING SHAME ON OUR WHOLE GRADUATING CLASS.
OH BOY! HA HA HA. WHAT IF YOU GET CAUGHT ?
YEAH
AND YET YOU PRACTICE?
WHO'S POISED TO RUN FOR THE CITY ASSEMBLY ...
ON THE ONE HAND THERE'S ME, OWNER OF A NICE-SIZED HOSPITAL
HOW WE'VE ALL CHANGED !
AT ANY RATE


...
...
ON THE OTHER HAND THERE'S YOU, BOLDLY PERSISTING AT YOUR ILLEGAL PRACTICE.
NO WONDER DOCTORS ARE GETTING A BAD REP.
GROW SOME COMMON SENSE.
YEAH
YOU REALLY CHARGED SOME CEO 100 MILLION FOR HEART SURGERY?
RUMOR'S THAT YOU'RE RAKING IT IN.
WHAT?! THE PATIENT IN ROOM 16 IS DYING ?
DESSERT! RIGHT HERE!!
A CALL FROM THE HOSPITAL, SIR.
AW, NOW IT'S GONNA MELT. IT'S GONNA MELT...

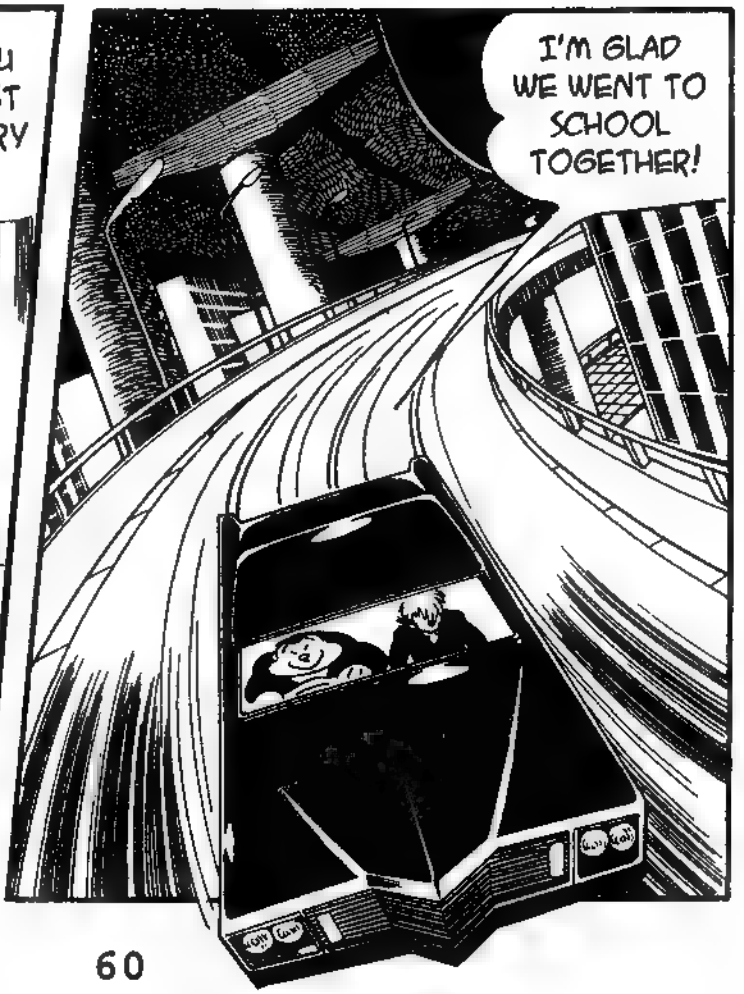

AND DOCTOR ITO?! ISN'T HE THERE ?
THOUGH WE SHOT HIM UP WITH MORE PAIN-KILLERS ...
HIS FACIAL HUE INDICATES CYANOSIS. HE'S RIGHT TUMBLING AROUND IN PAIN
DIRECTOR, PLEASE HEAD BACK RIGHT NOW. THE PATIENT IS IN DANGER.
IT WAS HIS TURN ON NIGHT DUTY! HE'S FIRED!
HE HAD TO STEP OUT FOR A WHILE.
TELE.
TSK
THIS IS BAD. I WAS COUNTING ON ITO.
HEY BLACK JACK, LISTEN...
UM, I'VE A FAVOR TO ASK...
COULD YOU DROP BY MY HOSPITAL WITH ME?

ARE YOU SURE IT'S PERITONITIS ?
MUST HAVE PERFORATED HIS INTESTINE.
...RIGHT, SO THE PERITONITIS

I'LL PAY YOU, OF COURSE.
I'M SHORT ON PERSONNEL TONIGHT. HELP ME OPERATE.

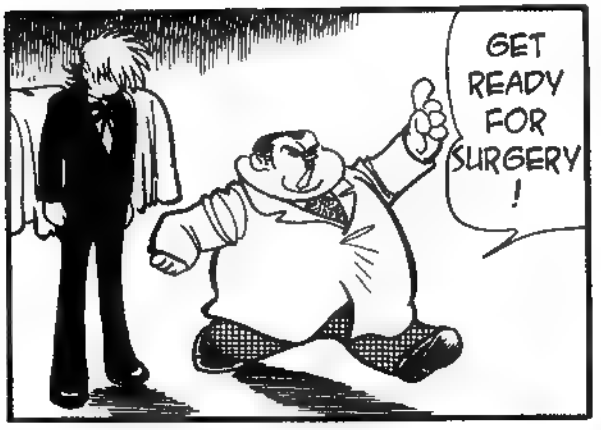
I-IT MUST BE. IN FACT, I'M SURE !

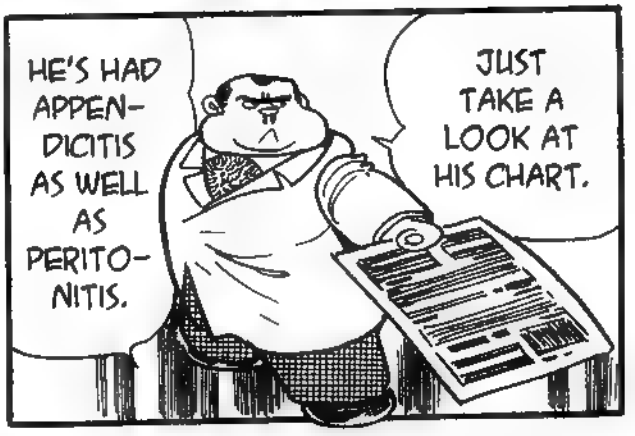
DON'T RUSH ME LIKE THAT, YOU IDIOT.
YOU MUST HURRY !!

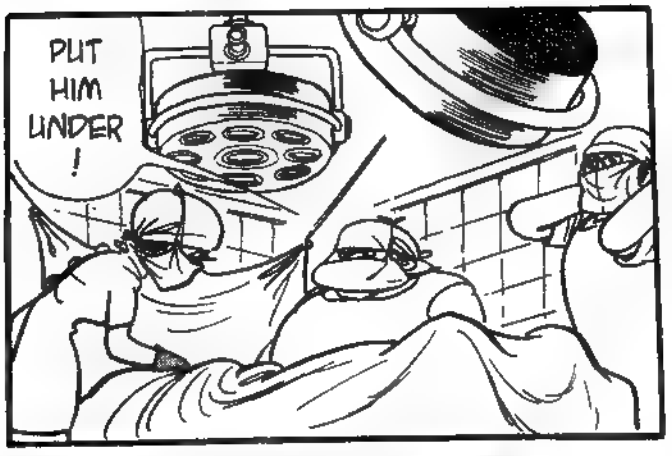

I'M GLAD WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER!

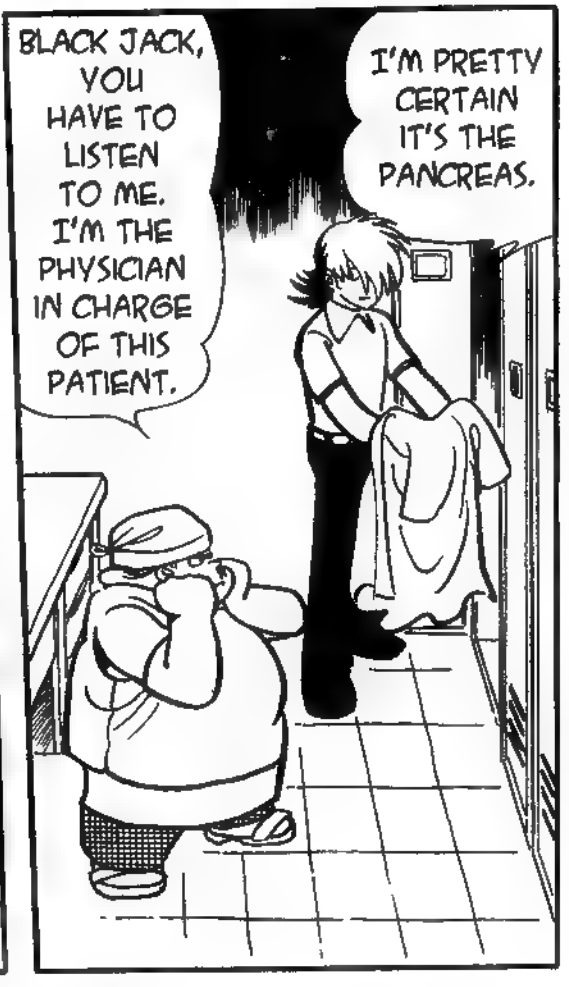
DOC- DOC- DOCTOR! IT HURTS. HELP ME PLEASE !
UNNNNGH URRM NGHH
EXORCI-SE!
BARU
HARDLY AT ALL ...
THE PAIN-KILLERS AREN'T WORKING ?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S PERITO-NITIS ?
GRZ-ZD GRZ-ZD

SAYS THE UN-LICENSED DOCTOR.
I THINK IT'S ACUTE PANCREATITIS.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS!


GET READY FOR SURGERY!

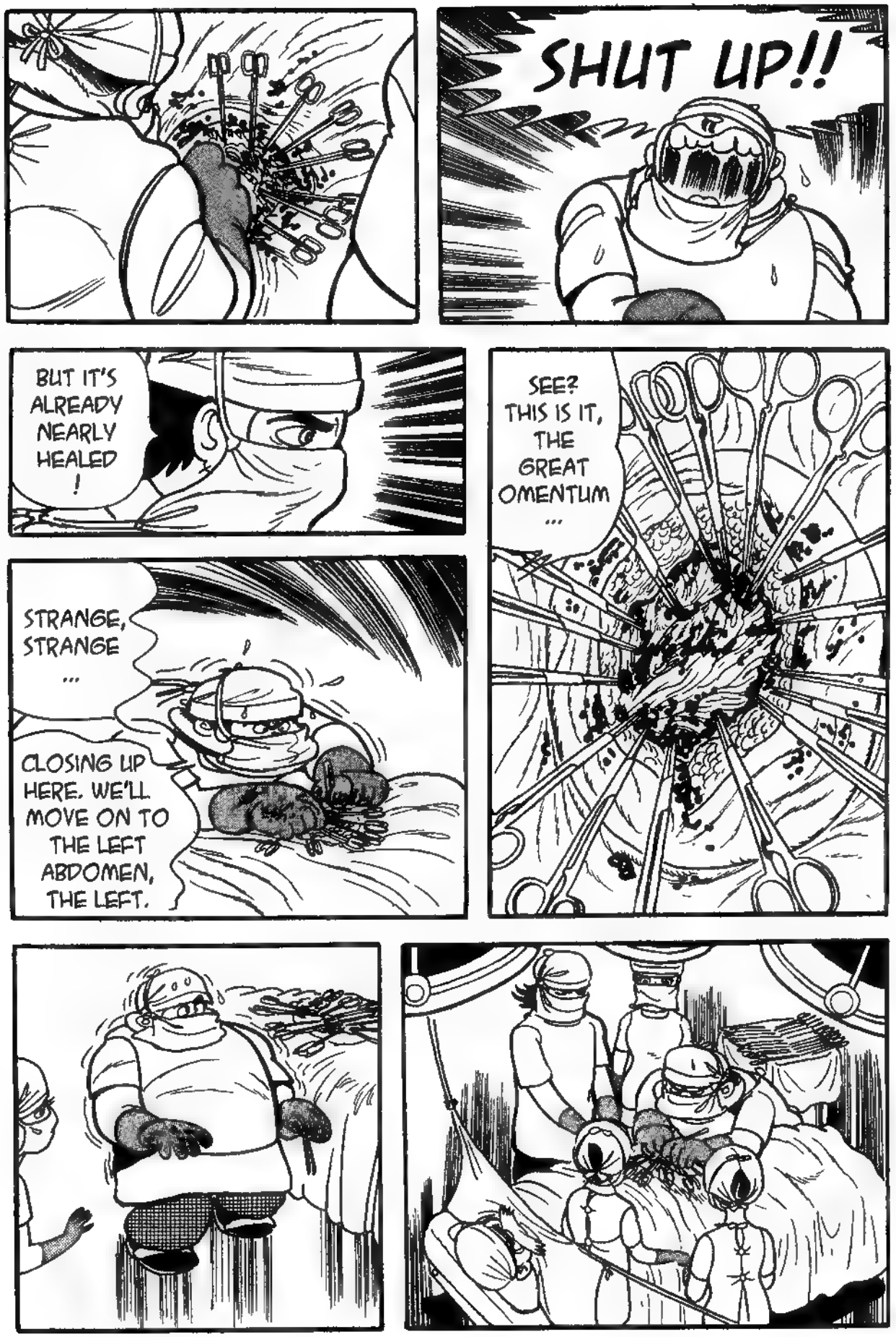

HE'S HAD APPEN-DICITIS AS WELL AS PERITO-NITIS.
JUST TAKE A LOOK AT HIS CHART.

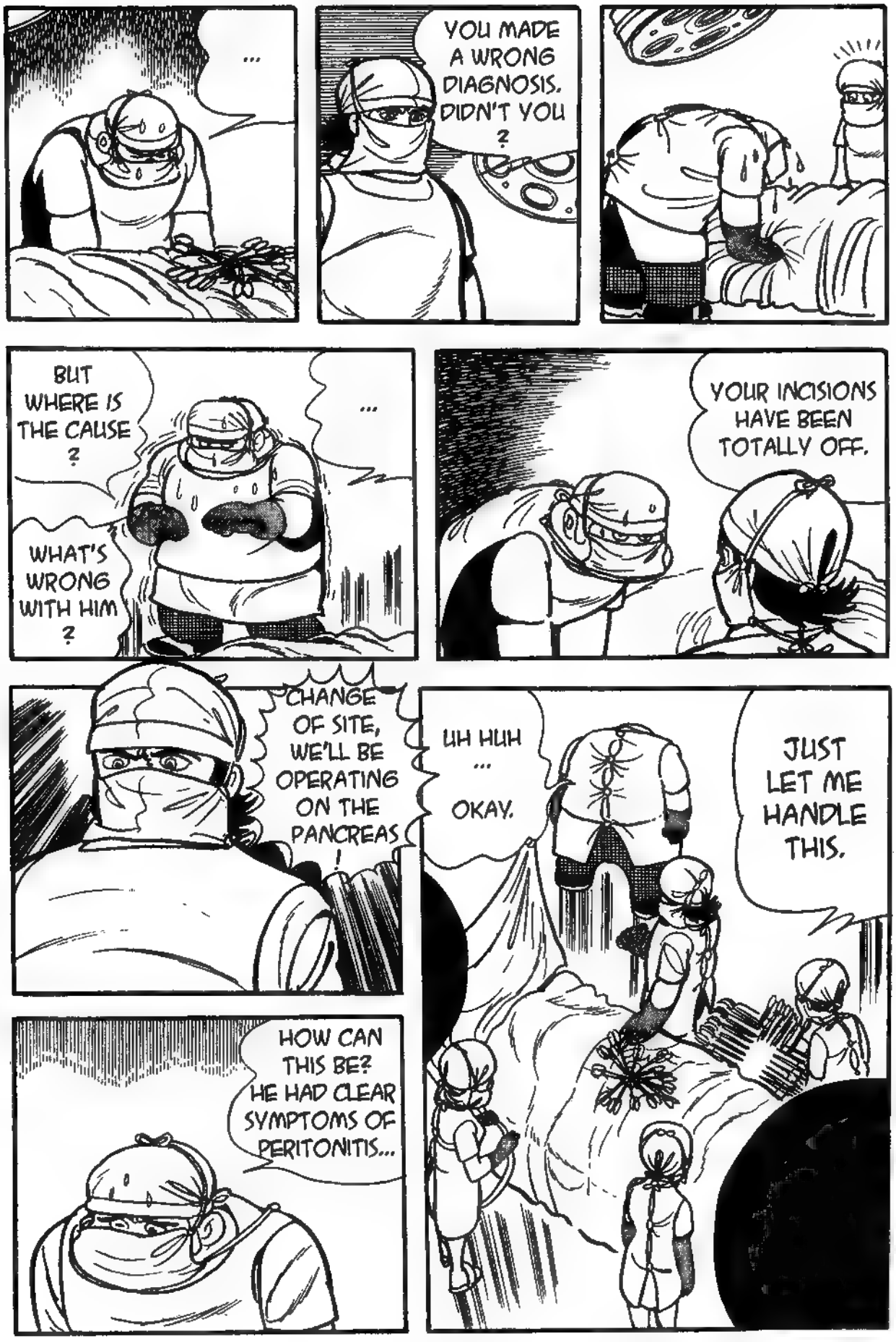

PUT HIM UNDER!


BLACK JACK, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME. I'M THE PHYSICIAN IN CHARGE OF THIS PATIENT.
I'M PRETTY CERTAIN IT'S THE PANCREAS.

...

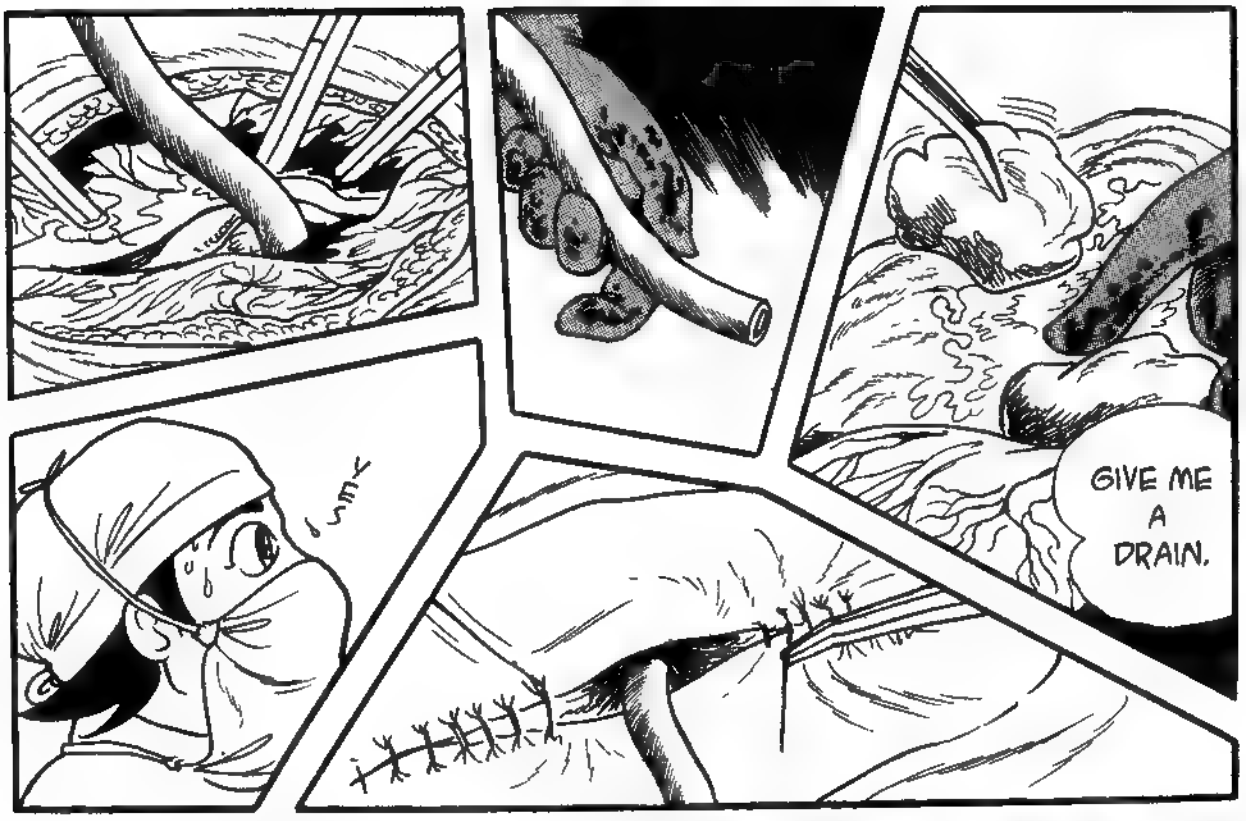
WRONG SITE!
INCISING LOWER RIGHT ABDOMEN AT THE RECTUS BORDER!
...
I ASKED FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, NOT YOUR OPINION.
THIS IS WHERE.
HAVE YOU DONE MANY ABDO-MINAL OPS?
YOU'VE LEFT OPS TO YOUR SUBORDINATES WHILE YOU SAT BACK IN A CUSHY CHAIR.
YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING.
...


SHUT UP!!
BUT IT'S ALREADY NEARLY HEALED !
SEE? THIS IS IT, THE GREAT OMENTUM ...
STRANGE, STRANGE ...
CLOSING UP HERE. WE'LL MOVE ON TO THE LEFT ABDOMEN, THE LEFT.

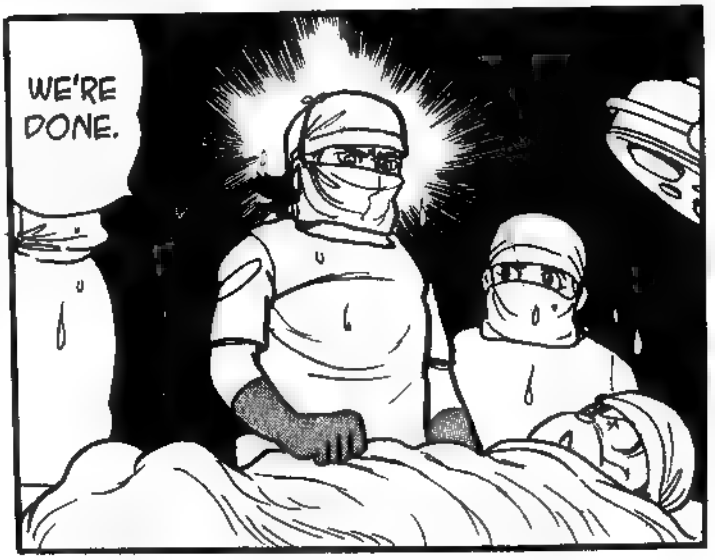

...
YOU MADE A WRONG DIAGNOSIS. DIDN'T YOU ?
BUT WHERE IS THE CAUSE ?
...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM ?
YOUR INCISIONS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY OFF.
CHANGE OF SITE, WE'LL BE OPERATING ON THE PANCREAS !
UH HUH ... OKAY.
JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS.
HOW CAN THIS BE? HE HAD CLEAR SYMPTOMS OF PERITONITIS...

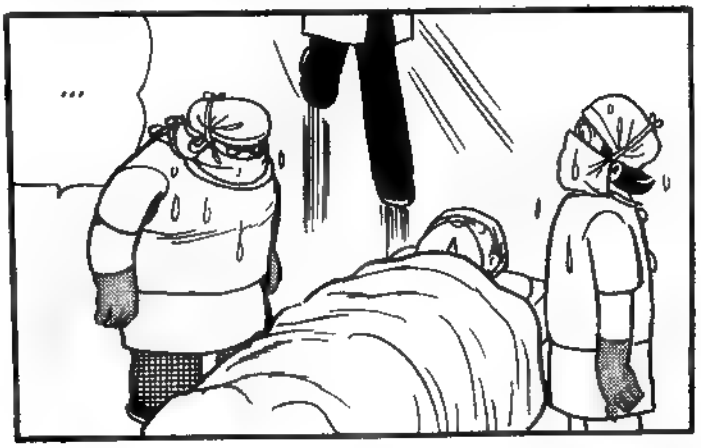
JUST GO AHEAD.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP ME?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A DOCTOR ?!
IT'S YOUR DIAGNOSIS, YOU DO THE OPERATION YOURSELF.
WHAT IS THIS? YOU WON'T EVEN ATTEND THE OPERATION? WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?
STUPID, STUPID, STUPID! WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO ME?
I WAS VISITING ANOTHER DOCTOR AT HIS HOME TO SEEK ADVICE ON WHETHER TO OPERATE ON MY PATIENT.
ITO!! WHERE WERE YOU ?!
IT IS !
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SQUABBLING. THE SURGERY IS UNDERWAY, DR. ITO.

INCISING MEDIAN AT UPPER ABDOMEN !
INTESTINAL FORCEPS !!
SLICE
SLICE
YOU HAD NO INKLING OF THIS? NONE AT ALL?
HERE, THE PANCREAS. SEE ALL THAT PUS.
ELECTRIC SCALPEL


GIVE ME A DRAIN.

...


WE'RE DONE.

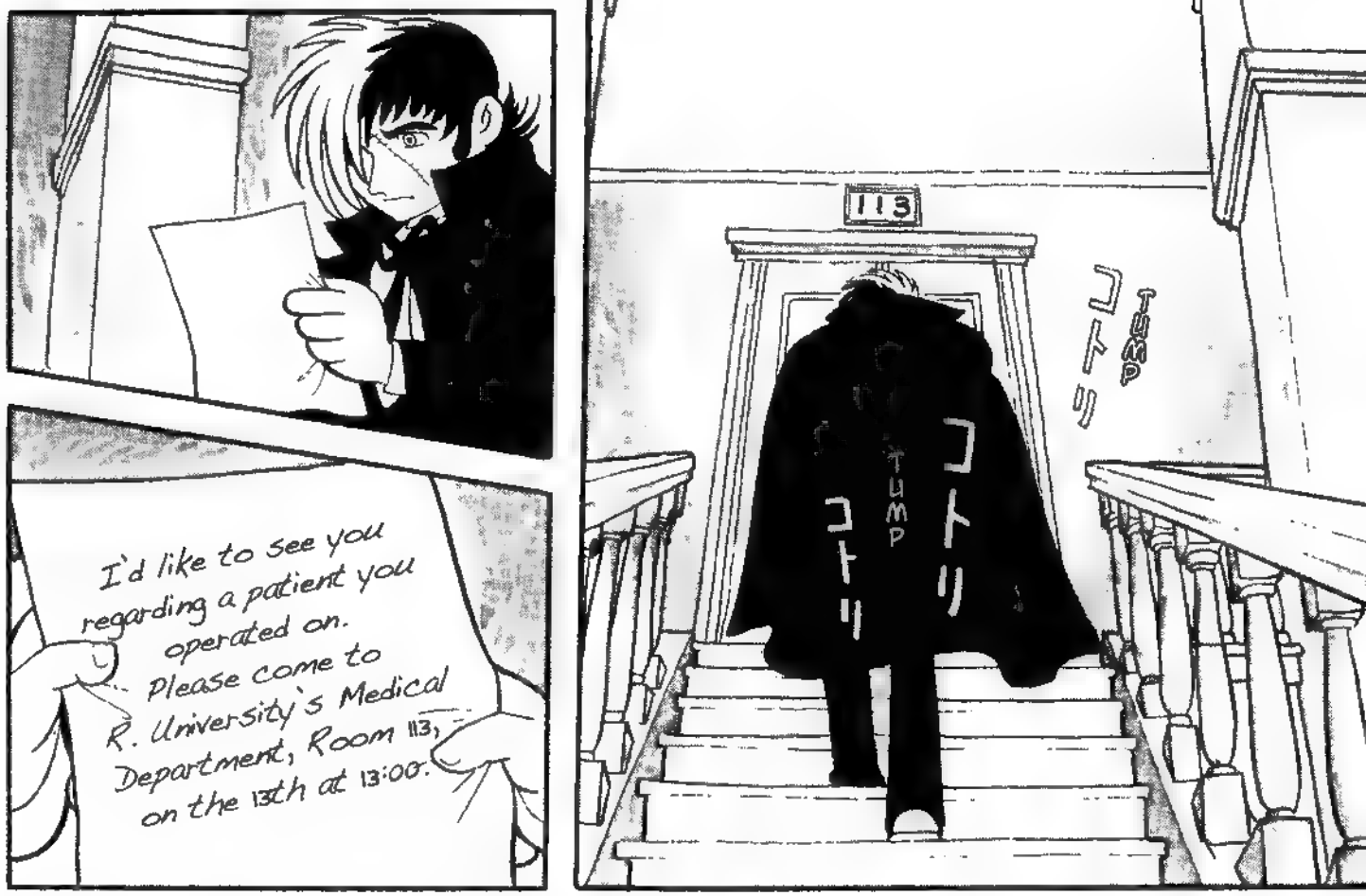

...

HEY, DO YOU WANT TO WORK HERE?
YOU'RE REALLY AS GOOD AS THEY SAY.
AT ANY RATE, THAT WAS A SUPERB OP...
YOU SAVED MY NECK BACK THERE ...
I COULD EASILY GET YOU THAT LICENSE, YOU KNOW ?
WHAT? YOU REFUSE?
YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE MONEY!
I MEAN, AS EQUAL PARTNERS.
MY THANKS.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
DIRECTOR!
ITO. YOU'LL NOT BE NEEDED HERE AGAIN.

AH, DR. ITO. I HEARD YOU WERE LET GO BY THAT HOSPITAL.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK!
YOUR GREAT SKILLS— I WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU!
DOCTOR, PLEASE PUT ME TO USE HERE. MAKE ME YOUR ASSISTANT!
IT'S TRUE. I WAS FIRED. BUT I'D BEEN MEANING TO LEAVE SOMEDAY.

I'M SERIOUS. I WANT TO WORK HERE.
NO
YOU HAVE A FUTURE. YOU OUGHT TO GO JOIN A GOOD HOSPITAL.
WATCHING YOU OPERATE WAS SUCH AN HONOR!
GO HOME. AND TAKE MY ADVICE: DON'T BECOME A DOCTOR LIKE ME.
I WON'T TEAM UP WITH ANYONE, NOR DO I NEED ANY HELP!
I WILL NOT HIRE YOU!
DON'T BECOME ONE WHO INVITES CONTEMPT!

THE TATTOOED MAN


I'd like to see you regarding a patient you operated on. ... Please come to R. University's Medical Department, Room 113, on the 13th at 13:00.
113
コトリ
TUMP
コトリ
TUMP
コトリ

SLAM
FORENSIC SPECIMENS
KARAK

DASH
...
BAM
BAM
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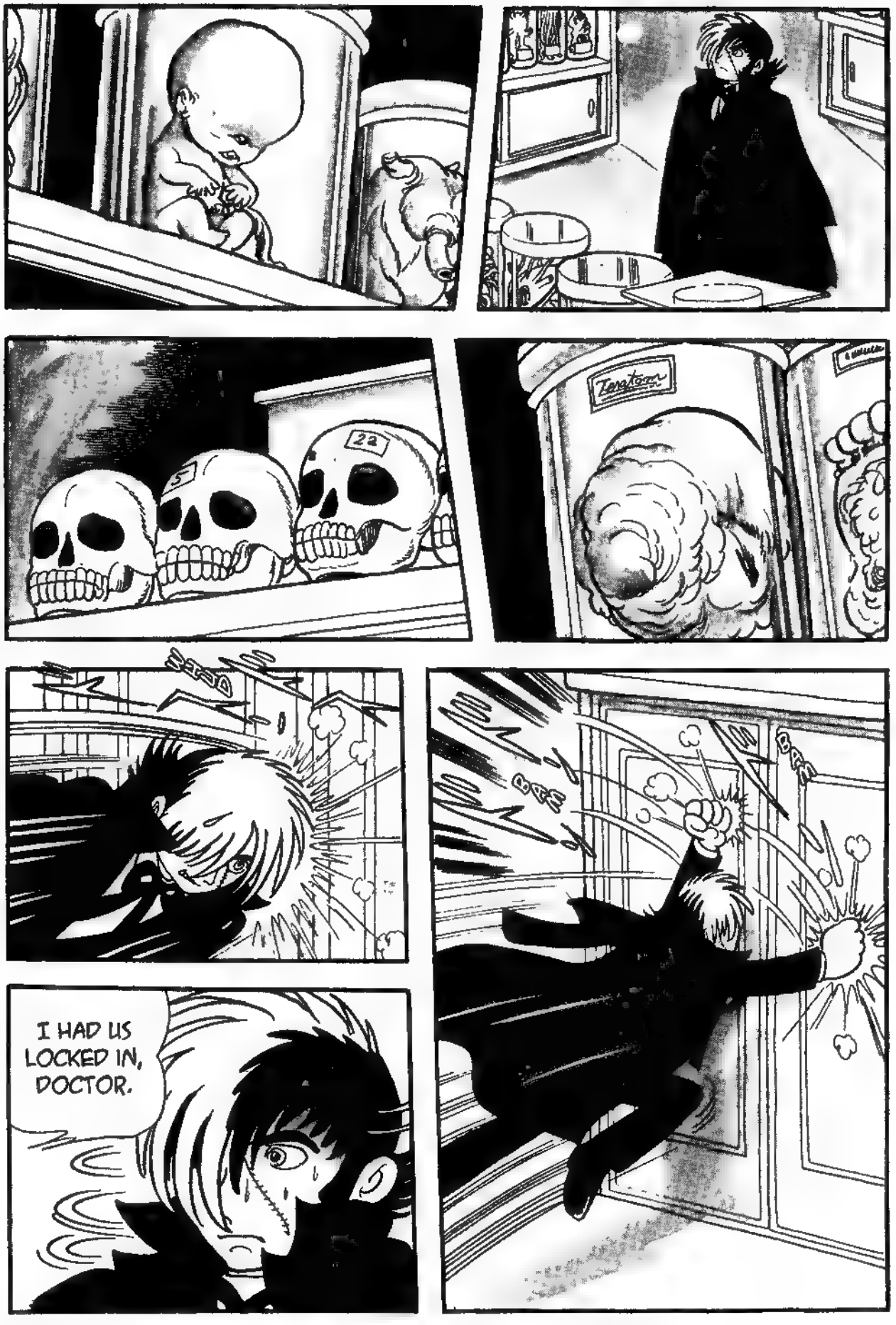

5
22
Zenatom
DASH
DASH
I HAD US LOCKED IN, DOCTOR.

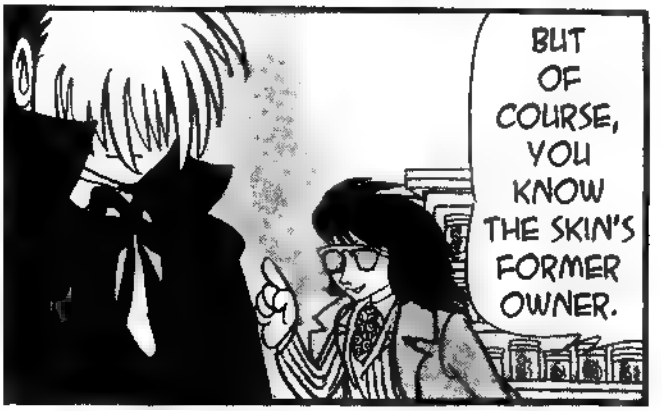
...

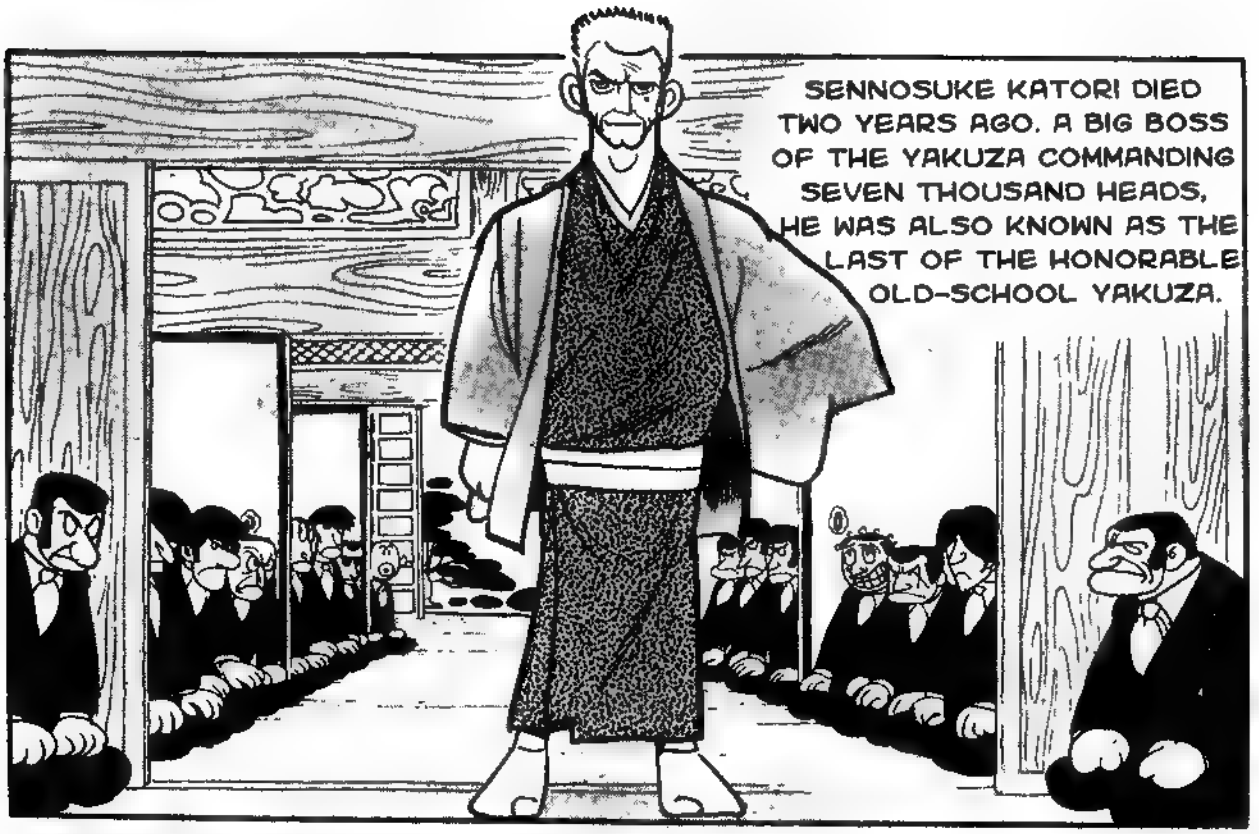
DON'T BE SO SURPRISED. I'M THE LETTER'S AUTHOR. THANKS FOR MEEKLY ACCEDING TO MY REQUEST.

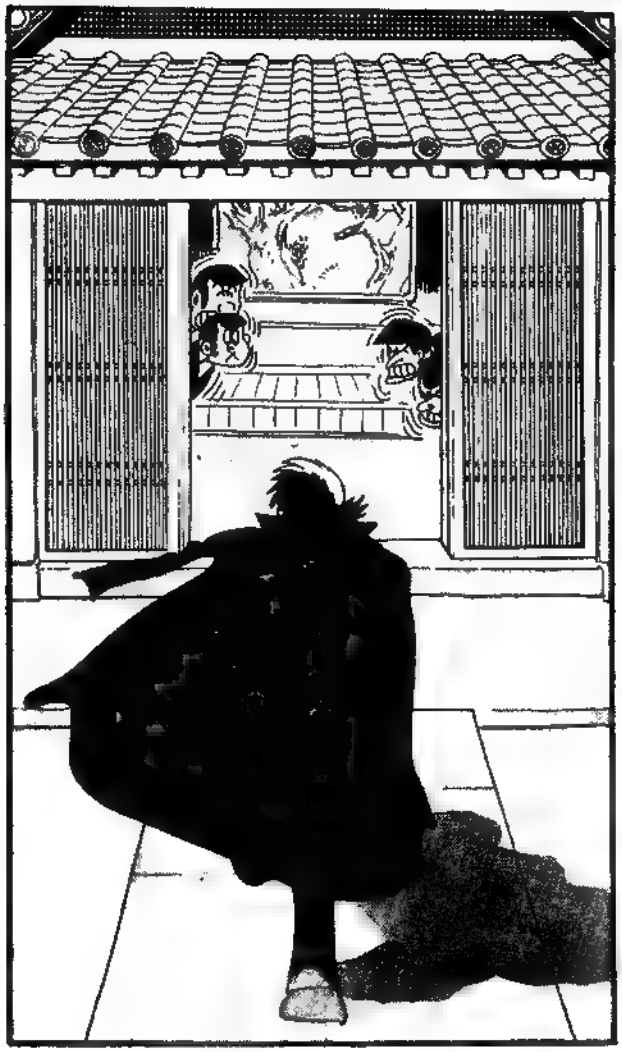
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT "HUMAN HIDE" BEHIND YOU?
THIS ROOM HOUSES QUITE AN ARRAY OF CURIOSITIES, DOESN'T IT?

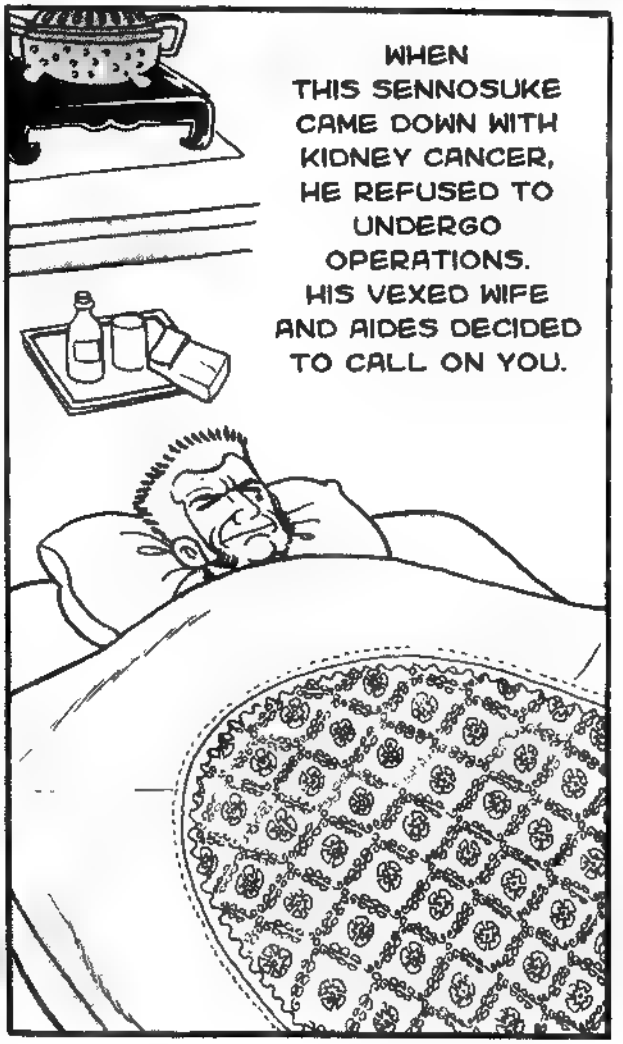
A CERTAIN MAN THAT YOU TREATED.
SO IT'S KATORI?!
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!

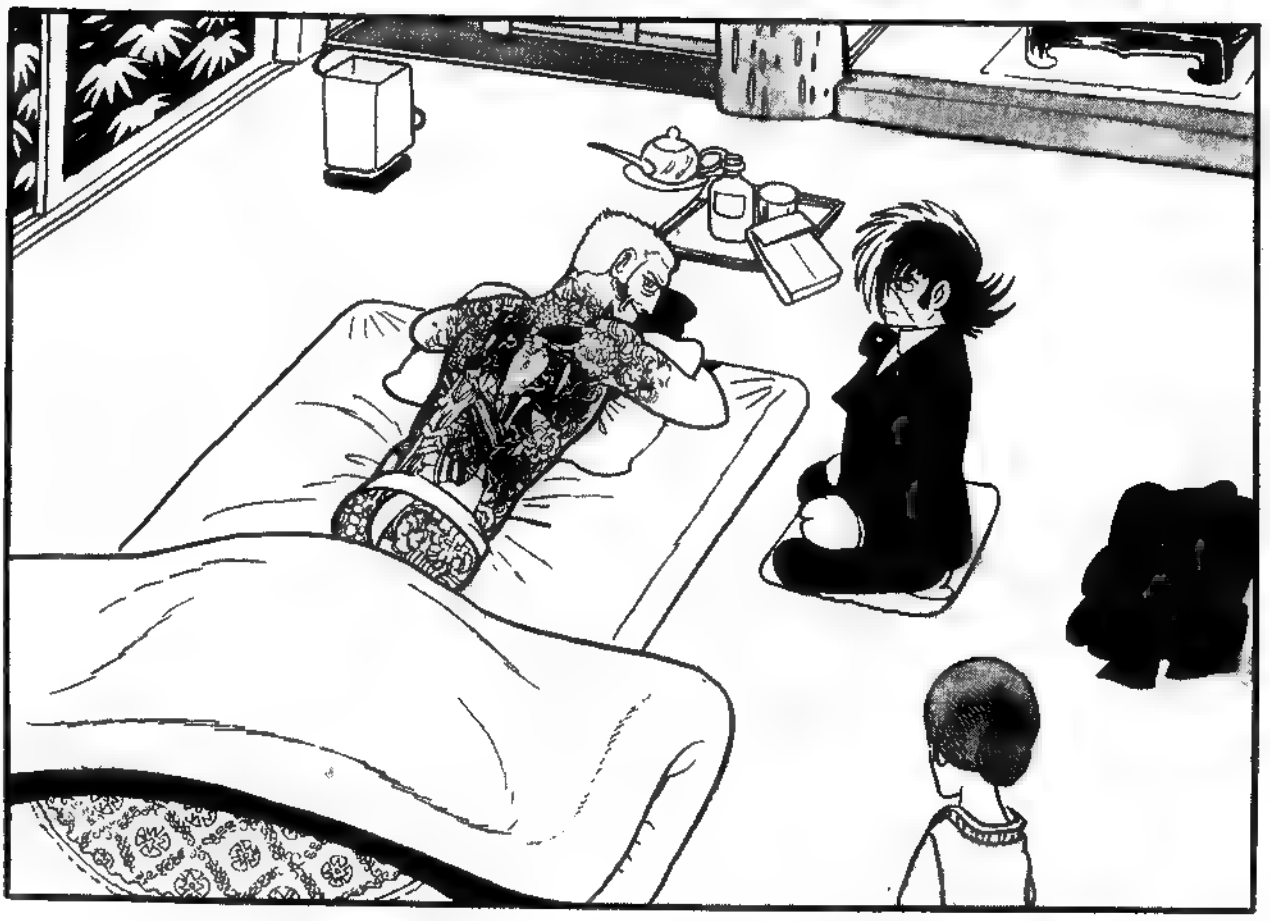
ITS LOSS ESCHEWED, THE SKIN WAS PEELED OFF THE CORPSE AND CURED.
QUITE POSSIBLY THE BEST TATTOO EVER ...


BUT OF COURSE, YOU KNOW THE SKIN'S FORMER OWNER.


SENNOSUKE KATORI DIED TWO YEARS AGO. A BIG BOSS OF THE YAKUZA COMMANDING SEVEN THOUSAND HEADS, HE WAS ALSO KNOWN AS THE LAST OF THE HONORABLE OLD-SCHOOL YAKUZA.




WHEN THIS SENNOSUKE CAME DOWN WITH KIDNEY CANCER, HE REFUSED TO UNDERGO OPERATIONS. HIS VEXED WIFE AND AIDES DECIDED TO CALL ON YOU.



NOR WILL THERE EVER BE, I SAY.
DON'T YOU THINK, DOC? A TATTOO LIKE THIS, THERE AREN'T TWO IN THE WORLD.

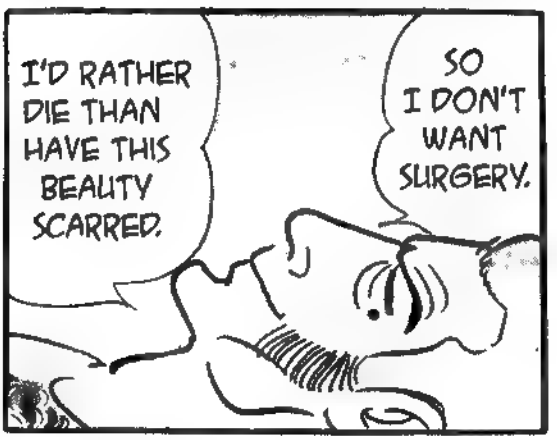
IT'S A BEAUTY.

DOC, I'M WORTHLESS SCUM, WITH NO LEARNING OR TALENT TO SPEAK OF.
BUT I WANT TO DIE HAVING LEFT SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH THEY MIGHT SAY, "THAT MAN KATORI!" ...THIS TATTOO.

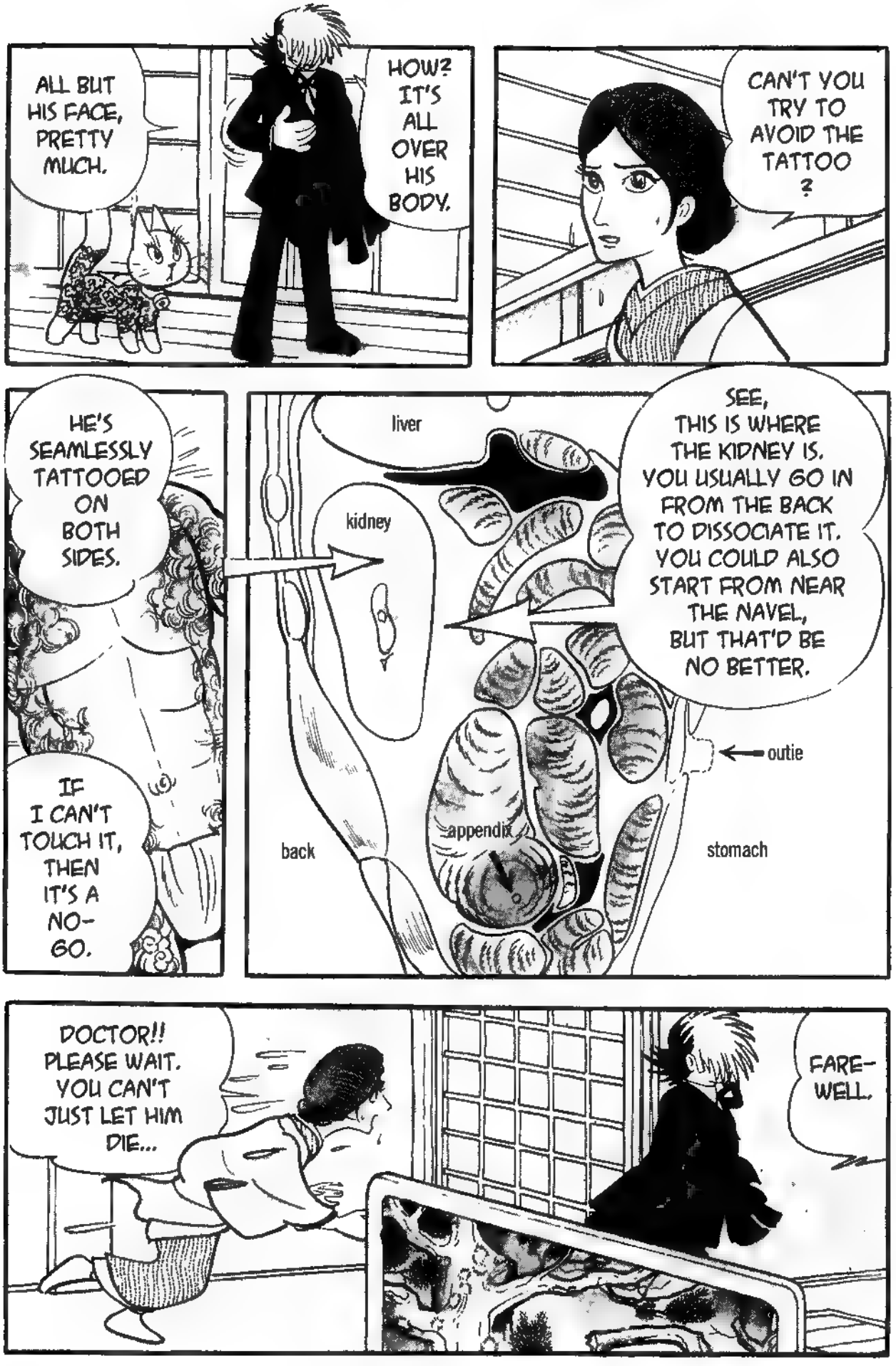
SURELY YOU UNDERSTAND. I DON'T WANT IT SPOILED.
THE SLIGHTEST SCAR WOULD HALVE ITS WORTH, AND MY PRIDE. HA HA HA...

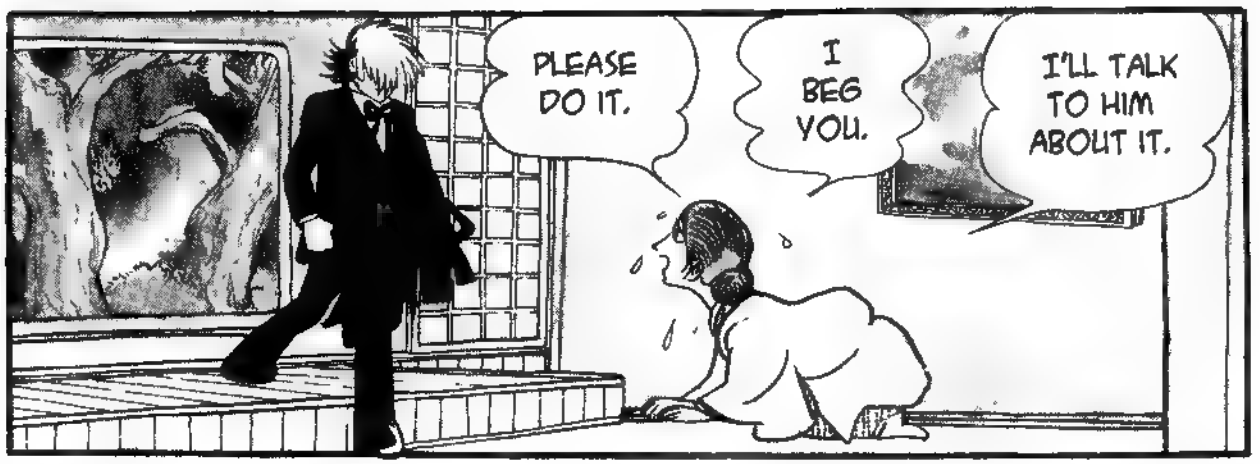
...

PLEASE SAVE MY HUSBAND !
DOCTOR, WON'T YOU OPERATE ON HIM? THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WE CAN TURN TO!
BUT HOW, IF I CAN'T CUT INTO HIM?

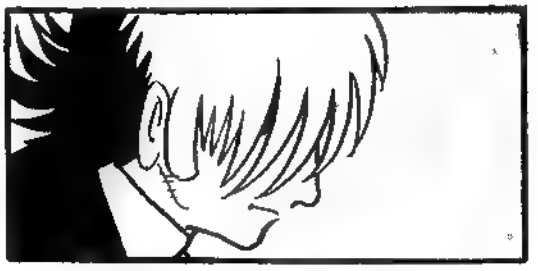

SO I DON'T WANT SURGERY.
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE THIS BEAUTY SCARRED.

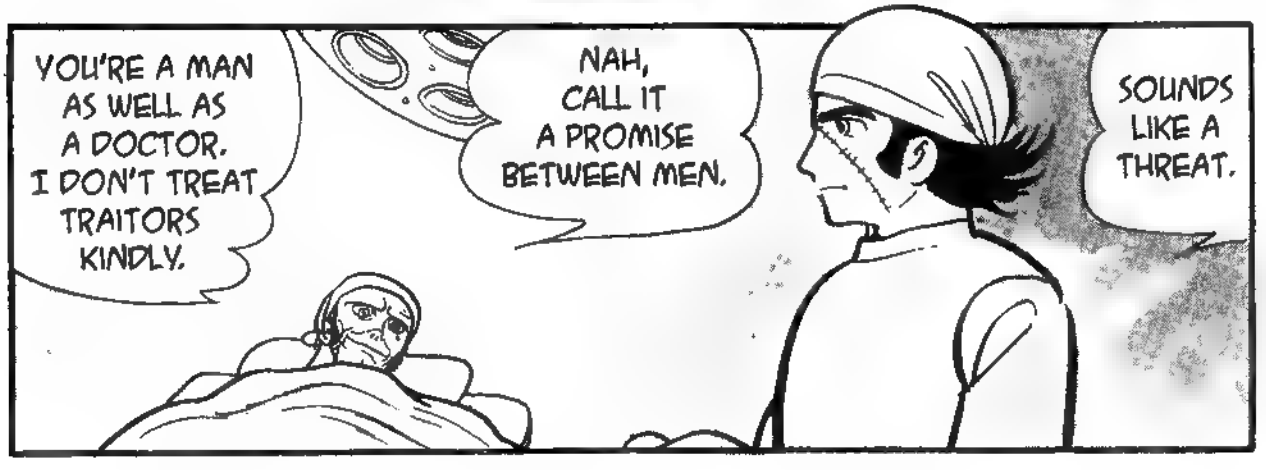
I SEE ...


ALL BUT HIS FACE, PRETTY MUCH.
HOW? IT'S ALL OVER HIS BODY.
CAN'T YOU TRY TO AVOID THE TATTOO ?
HE'S SEAMLESSLY TATTOOED ON BOTH SIDES.
IF I CAN'T TOUCH IT, THEN IT'S A NO-GO.
liver
kidney
SEE, THIS IS WHERE THE KIDNEY IS. YOU USUALLY GO IN FROM THE BACK TO DISSOCIATE IT. YOU COULD ALSO START FROM NEAR THE NAVEL, BUT THAT'D BE NO BETTER.
outie
appendix
back
stomach
DOCTOR!! PLEASE WAIT. YOU CAN'T JUST LET HIM DIE...
FARE-WELL.


PLEASE DO IT.
I BEG YOU.
I'LL TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT.

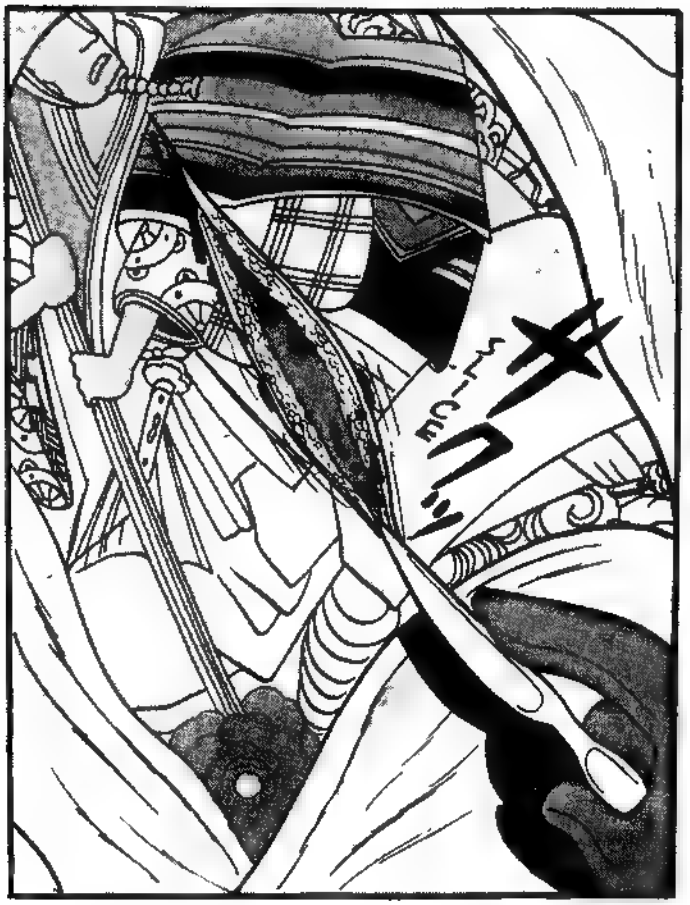
IF YOU BETRAY ME AND SO MUCH AS LEAVE A NICK, MY FAMILY OF SEVEN THOU WILL COME AFTER YOU.
I'LL SAY IT JUST ONCE MORE.




YOU'RE A MAN AS WELL AS A DOCTOR. I DON'T TREAT TRAITORS KINDLY.
NAH, CALL IT A PROMISE BETWEEN MEN.
SOUNDS LIKE A THREAT.

HRRM ...
I'LL PUT YOU UNDER.
HE WHO HARMS IT WILL PAY FOR IT.
THIS TATTOO IS MY WORTH, MY TREASURE.
YOU WILL NOT !
WE'LL STAY.
OUT, ALL OF YOU.
YOU GUYS AREN'T CLEAN!
GET OUT OF HERE !!
IT'S THE BOSS'S ORDER. WE'LL BE WATCHING YOU.
DO YOU WANT HIM TO GET AN INFECTION? HE COULD DIE EVEN IF I REMOVE THE CANCER!
HOW DARE YOU ?!

HE MESSES UP JUST A LITTLE, HE'S DEAD!
CAN'T ABIDE THAT DOC. WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?


SLICE!

THE PERITONEUM. I HAVE TO LEAVE IT INTACT.

HE'LL GET CANCER AGAIN EVEN IF I REMOVE THIS.
QUITE A BEAUTY ITSELF! I HAVE TO ASSUME METASTASIS.
STOPPIT
HE WON'T GET OUT ALIVE!
HE JUST CUT RIGHT IN!
HEH
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THE DOCTOR, YOU'LL HAVE ME TO DEAL WITH!
I'M DONE. HE'LL NEED POST-OP TREATMENT.
DOC-TOR!
BOM

YOU MAY REST EASY WHILE I'M ALIVE.
WILL I BE LEAVING IN ONE PIECE, THOUGH?
STRAIGHT THIS WAY, DOCTOR.
HE NEVER SHOWED ANYONE HIS SURGICAL SCAR.
SENNOSUKE KATORI DID RECOVER. AND UNTIL HIS DEATH TWO YEARS AGO...

WHO DIED FIVE DAYS AGO.
EXCEPT FOR HIS WIFE...
IN FACT, EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH, NONE WERE ABLE TO INSPECT HIS TATTOO,

I'M HIS SON, YOICHI.

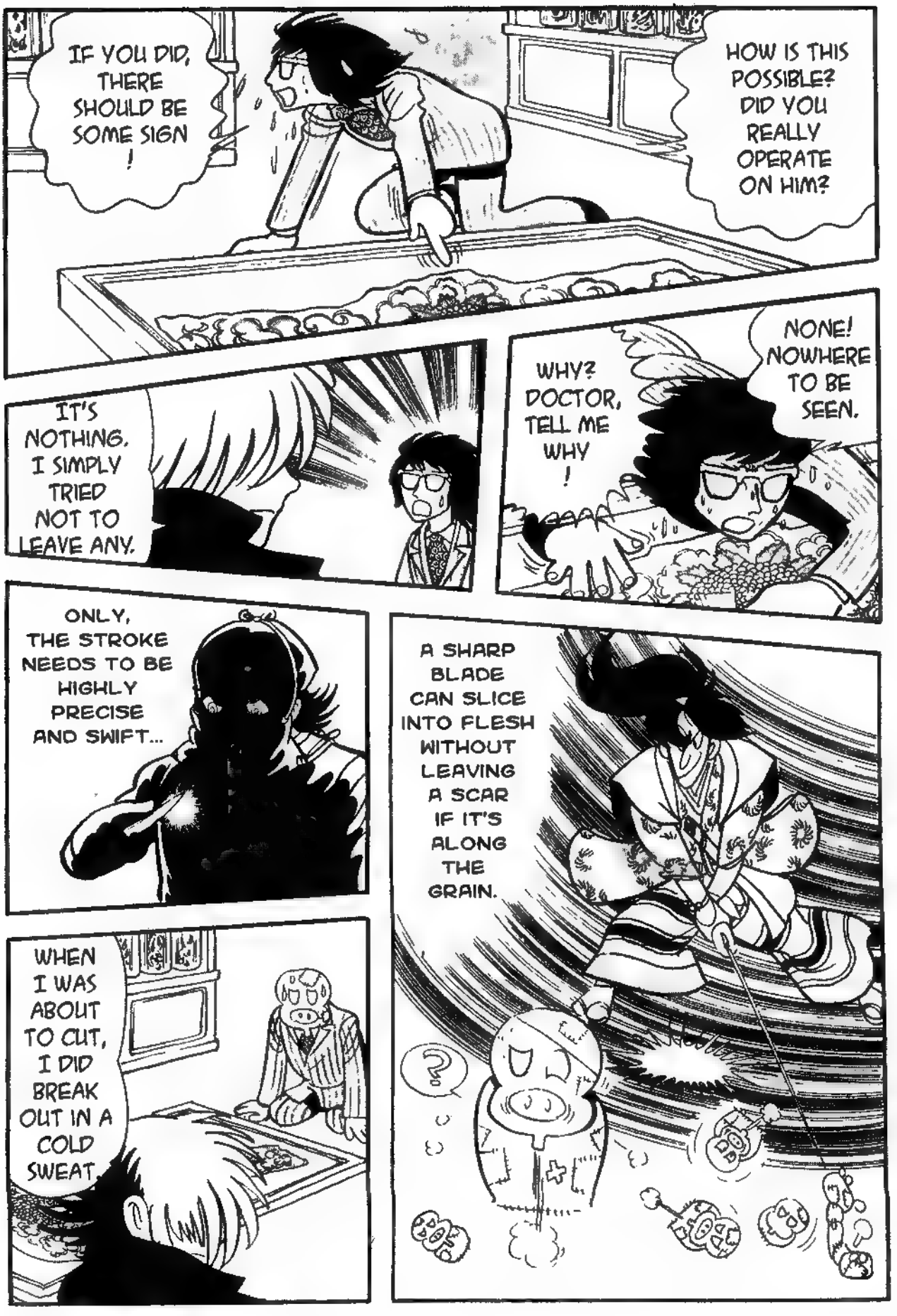
ARE YOU FROM HIS GANG ?

IT'S TIME TO INSPECT THAT SCAR.

I'LL HAND YOU OVER TO THE GANG.
I WON'T SPARE YOU.

BUT DON'T GET ME WRONG. IF THERE'S A SCAR, AS MY FATHER FEARED ...
I'M NOT YAKUZA. MY FATHER SENT ME TO THE U.S. INSTEAD TO STUDY. I'M BACK BECAUSE MY MOTHER JUST PASSED AWAY.

NOW HELP ME TAKE DOWN THIS FRAME, DOCTOR.
THE PEEPER SAID YOU SLICED RIGHT INTO HIS BACK.
I DON'T SEE ANY SCAR!
WHAT'S THIS ?!


IF YOU DID, THERE SHOULD BE SOME SIGN !
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? DID YOU REALLY OPERATE ON HIM?
IT'S NOTHING. I SIMPLY TRIED NOT TO LEAVE ANY.
WHY? DOCTOR, TELL ME WHY !
NONE! NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.
ONLY, THE STROKE NEEDS TO BE HIGHLY PRECISE AND SWIFT...
A SHARP BLADE CAN SLICE INTO FLESH WITHOUT LEAVING A SCAR IF IT'S ALONG THE GRAIN.
WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO CUT, I DID BREAK OUT IN A COLD SWEAT.

IT'S NOT PART OF THE ORIGINAL PATTERN.
WAIT... WHAT'S THIS SMALL TATTOO?
HE MUST HAVE DIED HATING YOU!
B-BUT YOU DID BETRAY HIM IN A WAY!
IS IT SOME WILL ?
DR. BLACK JACK, THANK YOU
THEY LOOK LIKE WORDS...
TUMP
KREAK
...

ABNORMAL PREGNANCY

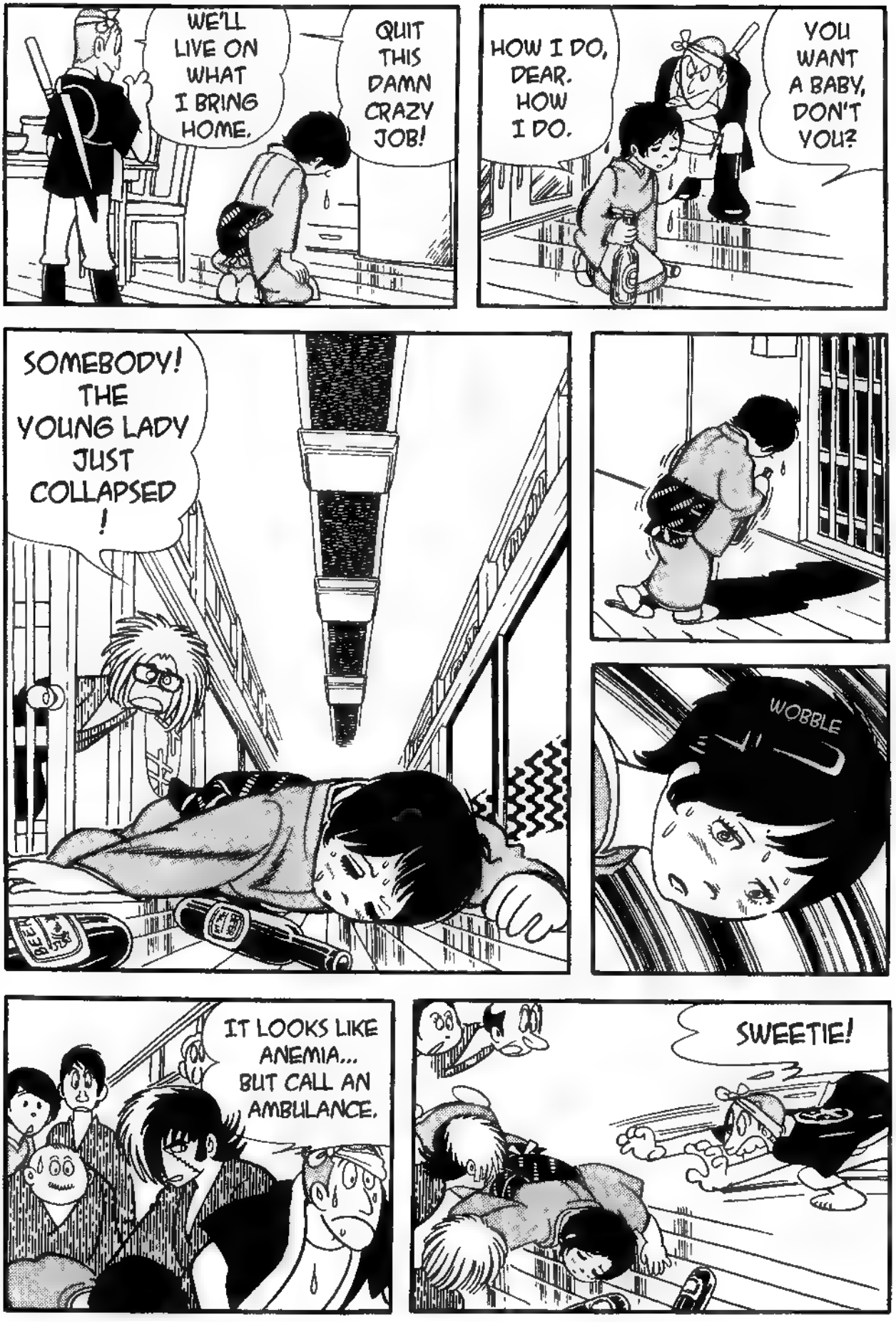
PHEW
"PHEW"
I HOPE IT WORKS OUT THIS TIME.
ISN'T SHE IN HER 6TH MONTH?
DIDN'T THAT MISCARRIAGE COME IN HER 6TH MONTH?
YES, BUT ...
TAKÉ, BETTER NOT HUSTLE SO. YOU'RE CARRYING SOMETHING DEARER IN YOU.

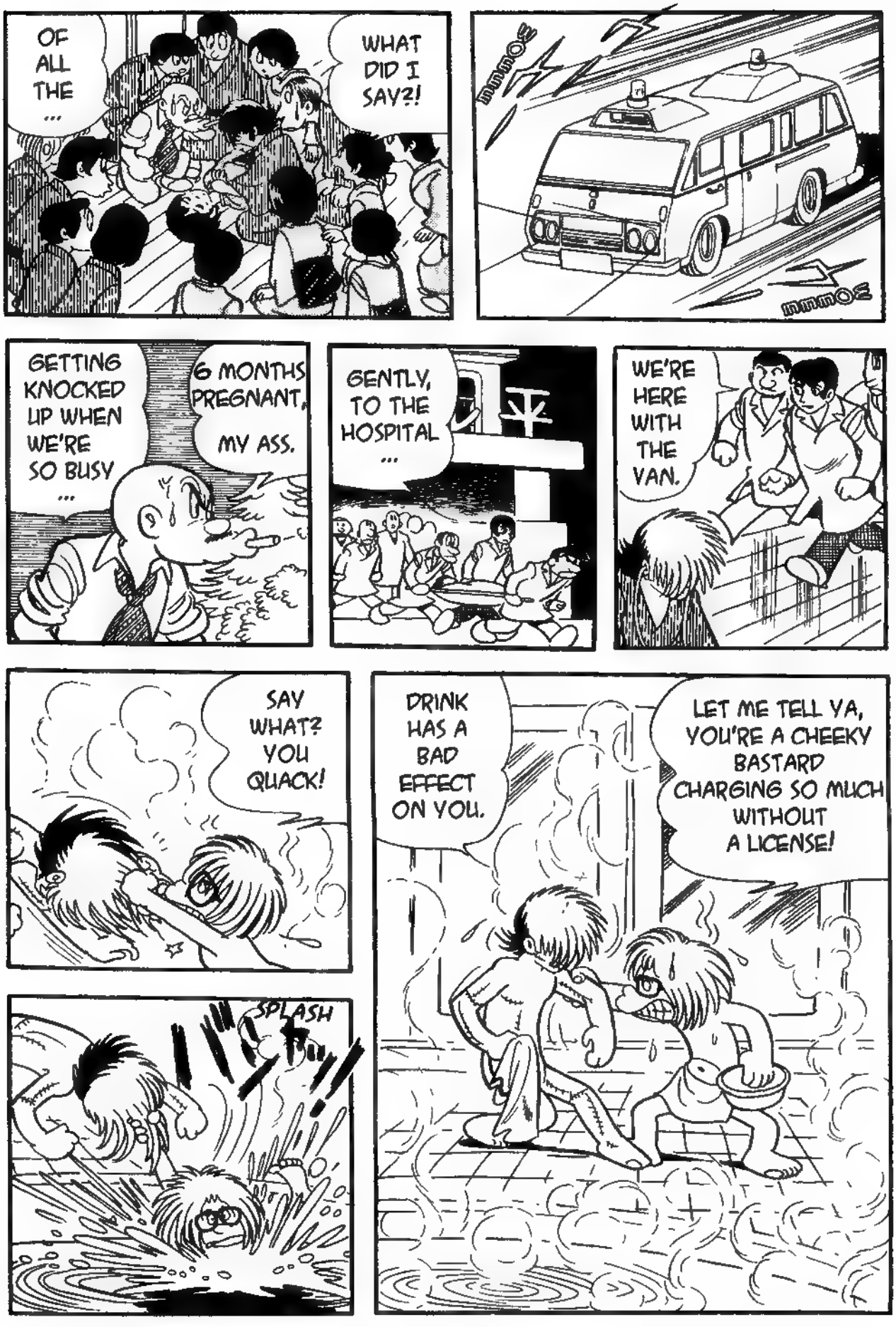
NOTE: IN THE FIRST PANEL: "HOTEL TAIRA" IS MOST LIKELY NAMED AFTER THE ILL-FATED TAIRA CLAN OR HEIKE THAT BRIEFLY REIGNED FROM KYOTO IN MEDIEVAL TIMES TILL ITS DEFEAT BY THE RIVAL MINAMOTO CLAN OR GENJI. "TAIRA" LITERALLY MEANS FLAT.

YOUR MEAL
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? MY STOMACH'S RUMBLING.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
BUT DON'T LET THE QUALITY OF SERVICE SUFFER.
GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE GETTING BUSINESS,
I'M SORRY.
WE'RE AWFULLY BUSY, SIR.
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT I GET TO SEE YOU.
OKAY, LET'S DRINK UP, DR. BLACK JACK.

THEY SAY YOU MAKE LOTS OF MONEY ...
TO OUR ALMA MATER.
THEY SAY YOU CHARGE TENS OF MILLIONS PER OP. IS THAT TRUE?
HEY, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU.
DO THEY ?
...
YOU ONLY TREAT RICH FOLKS?
EVEN AT TEN MILLION A POP, THAT'S 100 MILLION FOR JUST TEN JOBS. SWEET...
I GUESS.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
BY THE WAY
GULP!!
HUH.
BEER

WE NEED MORE BEER! BEER, BEER!
YOU FOOL !!
I'VE NO CHOICE.
HEY, ARE YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
YES, RIGHT NOW.
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG? THEY'RE ASKING FOR MORE BEER UPSTAIRS.
WHAT "NO CHOICE"? YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN YOURSELF TO WORRY ABOUT.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYIN'.
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY MISCARRIED TWICE.
YOU THINK I DON'T WANT TO ?
SWEETIE, YOU GOTTA GIVE US ONE THIS TIME. A NICE LI'L BABY!


WE'LL LIVE ON WHAT I BRING HOME.
QUIT THIS DAMN CRAZY JOB!
HOW I DO, DEAR. HOW I DO.
YOU WANT A BABY, DON'T YOU?
SOMEBODY! THE YOUNG LADY JUST COLLAPSED !
WOBBLE
IT LOOKS LIKE ANEMIA... BUT CALL AN AMBULANCE.
SWEETIE!

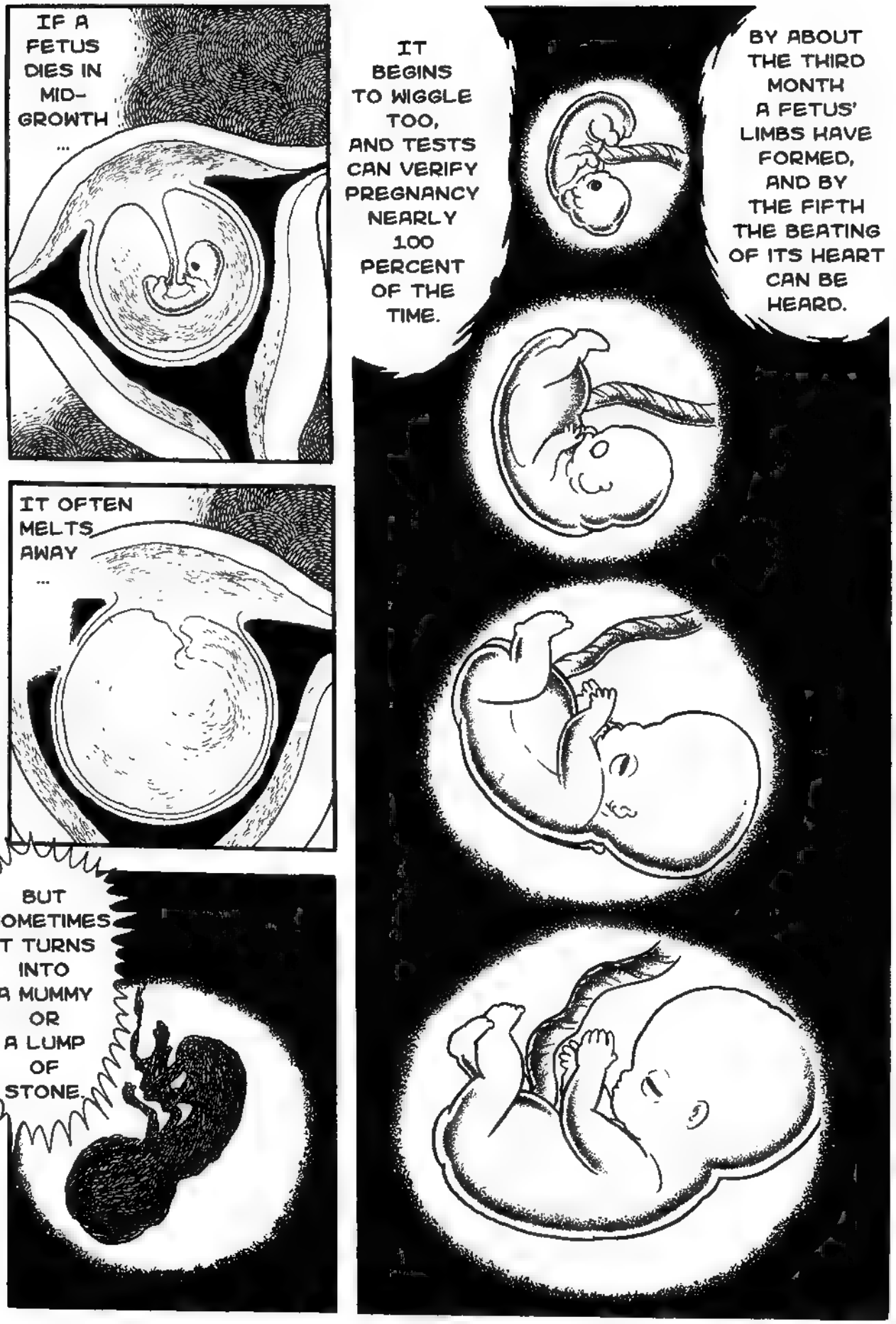

OF ALL THE ...
WHAT DID I SAY?!
mmm
mmm
GETTING KNOCKED UP WHEN WE'RE SO BUSY ...
6 MONTHS PREGNANT, MY ASS.
GENTLY, TO THE HOSPITAL ...
WE'RE HERE WITH THE VAN.
SAY WHAT? YOU QUACK!
SPLASH
DRINK HAS A BAD EFFECT ON YOU.
LET ME TELL YA, YOU'RE A CHEEKY BASTARD CHARGING SO MUCH WITHOUT A LICENSE!

IS THERE A MR. BLACK JACK? THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU.
EEK, I'M SCALDED !
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN YOU AT THE INN. I'M FROM THE E.R.
SO IT WAS YOU, DOCTOR BLACK JACK.
HELLO ...
RUNNING AWAY?
WE DON'T CARE.
YOU MUST KNOW THAT I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE.
ABOUT THE PATIENT WE JUST TOOK IN... COULD YOU POSSIBLY GIVE HER A LOOK?
OUT TO EARN MORE FILTHY LUCRE, EH?!
HEY, HEY !!
SOMETHING JUST ISN'T MAKING ANY SENSE...

SINCE YOU WON'T GIVE UP, I PROMISE TO DONATE.
ALL RIGHT ...
I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU. BACK TO THE BATH.
CUT IT.
YOU BETTER MEAN IT !
YOU'LL GET HALF OF IT. NOT DEPENDING ON THE SUM!
WHATEVER I EARN FOR THIS ONE...
SEE YOU...
PLEASE LOOK AT THIS X-RAY!
I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEM. SEEMS LIKE A ROUTINE PREGNANCY.
SIXTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY... INDICES NOMINAL...
BUS
HOSPITAL
ARE YOU SAYING THIS IS THE FETUS ?
THIS IS...

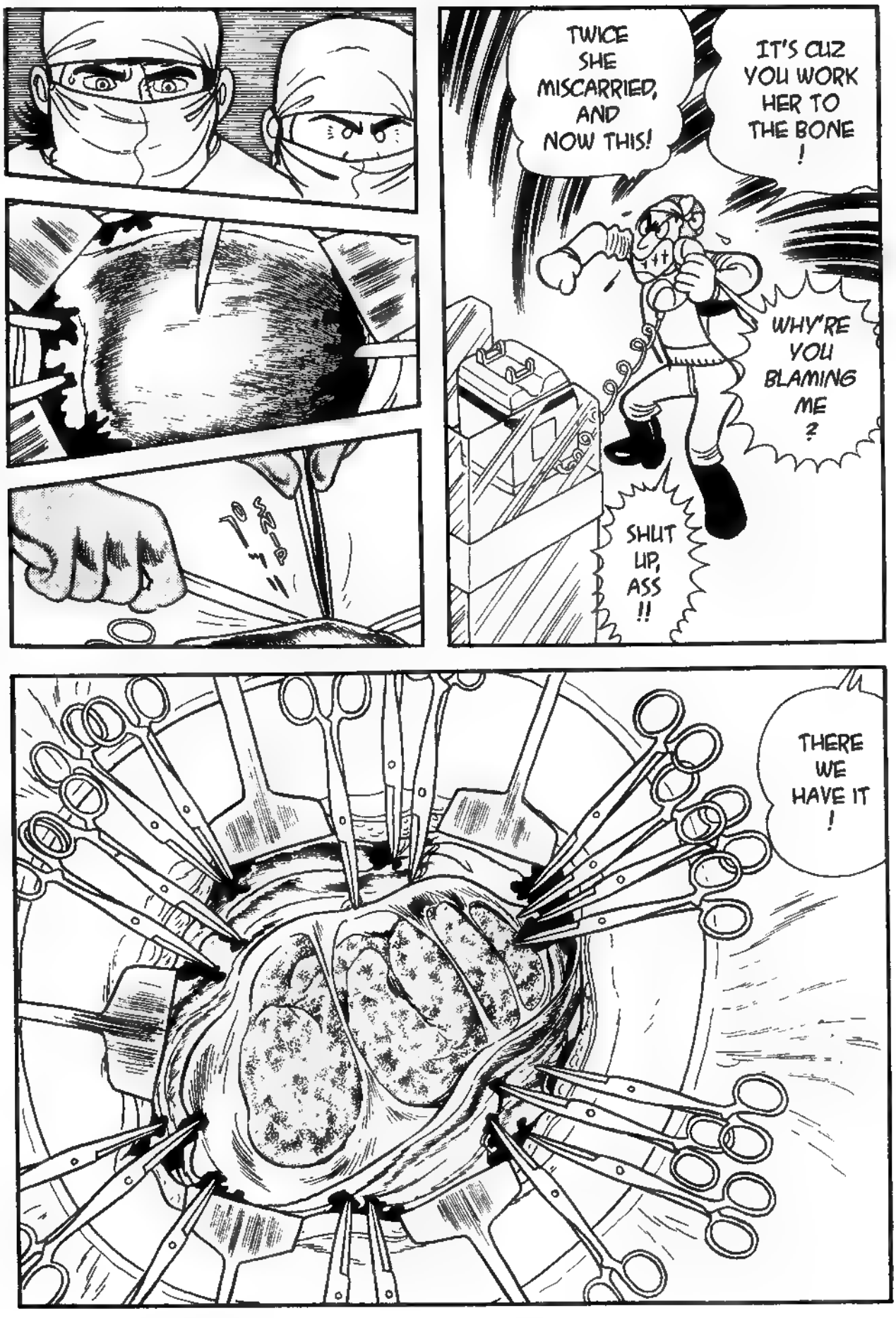
NATURALLY, WE CAN'T DETECT ANY CARDIAC SOUND.
OR RATHER... IT'S LIKE A LUMP OF STONE.
HAS IT MUMMIFIED ?!
THEN IT MUST BE DEAD.
WORKERS' EMERGENCY HOSPITAL
SO YOU'RE SAYING ...
DESPITE SOME BLEEDING, THE PLACENTA IS ALSO INTACT.
BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, WE SHOULDN'T BE GETTING ANY SIGNS OF PREGNANCY.
THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.
BUT THE MOTHER'S SHOWING CLEAR SIGNS OF PREGNANCY.
THE BABY'S DEAD AND MUMMIFIED

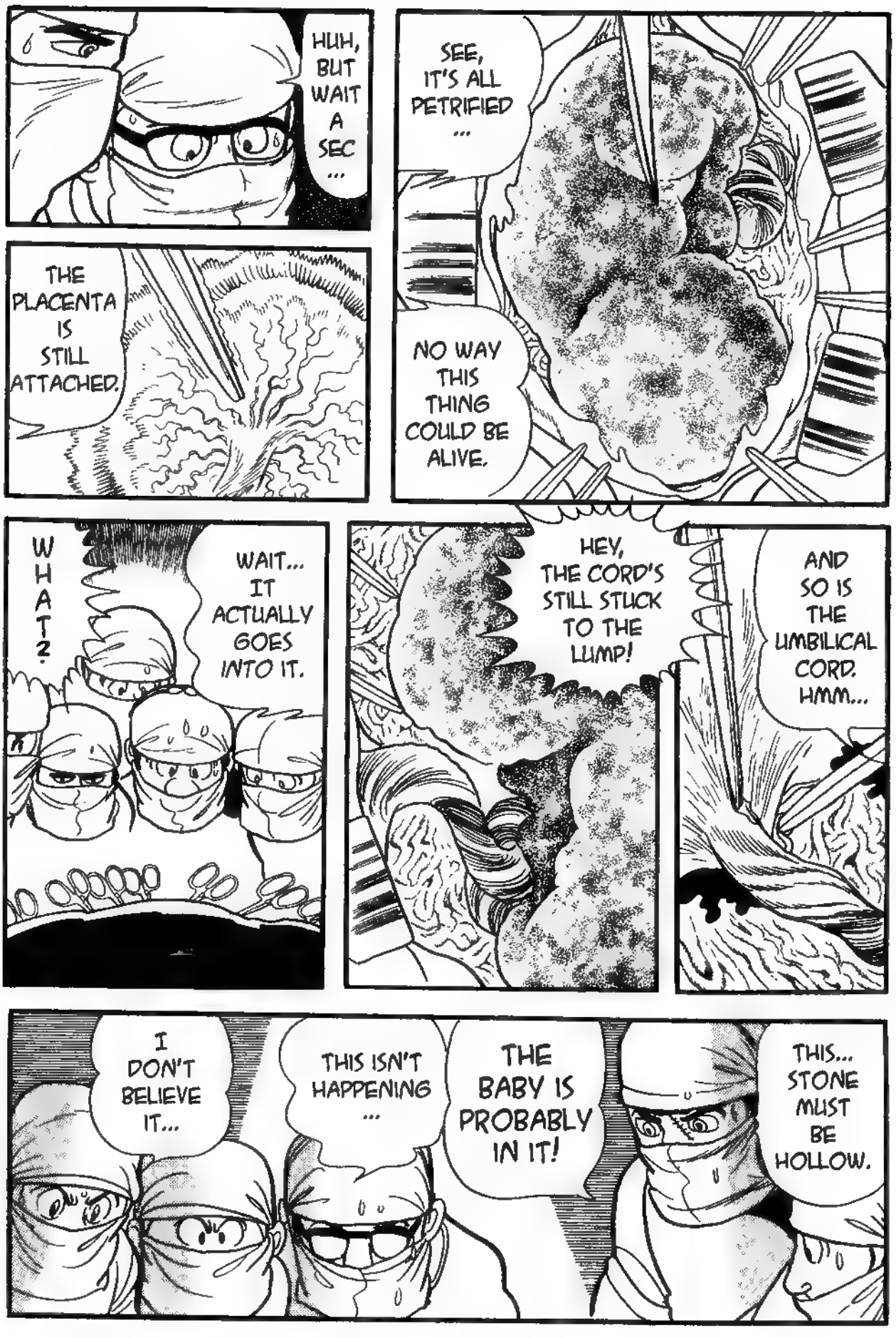
DOCTOR, THE BABY'S FINE, AIN'T IT? IT'LL COME THIS TIME ?
PLEASE SEE HER.
KREAK
THIS STIFF LUMP LIKE A STONE ...
DOCTOR! IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY BABY? P-PLEASE ...
HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD IT?
FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS.
YES, THIS IS STRANGE ...


IF A FETUS DIES IN MID-GROWTH ...
IT OFTEN MELTS AWAY ...
BUT SOMETIMES IT TURNS INTO A MUMMY OR A LUMP OF STONE.
IT BEGINS TO WIGGLE TOO, AND TESTS CAN VERIFY PREGNANCY NEARLY 100 PERCENT OF THE TIME.
BY ABOUT THE THIRD MONTH A FETUS' LIMBS HAVE FORMED, AND BY THE FIFTH THE BEATING OF ITS HEART CAN BE HEARD.

SHALL WE TELL THE FATHER THE BABY IS DEAD?
NO ...
IF IT GREW TO BE FAIRLY LARGE, IT REQUIRES SURGICAL REMOVAL.
WHAT?!
MY HUNCH IS THAT THE FETUS ISN'T DEAD.
BUT THERE'S NO CARDIAC SOUND!
WE'D BETTER NOT SINCE SHE SHOWS CONTINUED SIGNS OF PREGNANCY.
WHEN IT'S TURNED TO STONE?
I'VE BEEN RAISING THAT CHILD, WHO'S VERY MUCH ALIVE AND KICKING.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? IN THAT CYSTOMA WERE THE PARTS OF A LIVING CHILD, A WHOLE SET.
I REMOVED A TERATOID CYSTOMA FROM A YOUNG LADY ONCE.

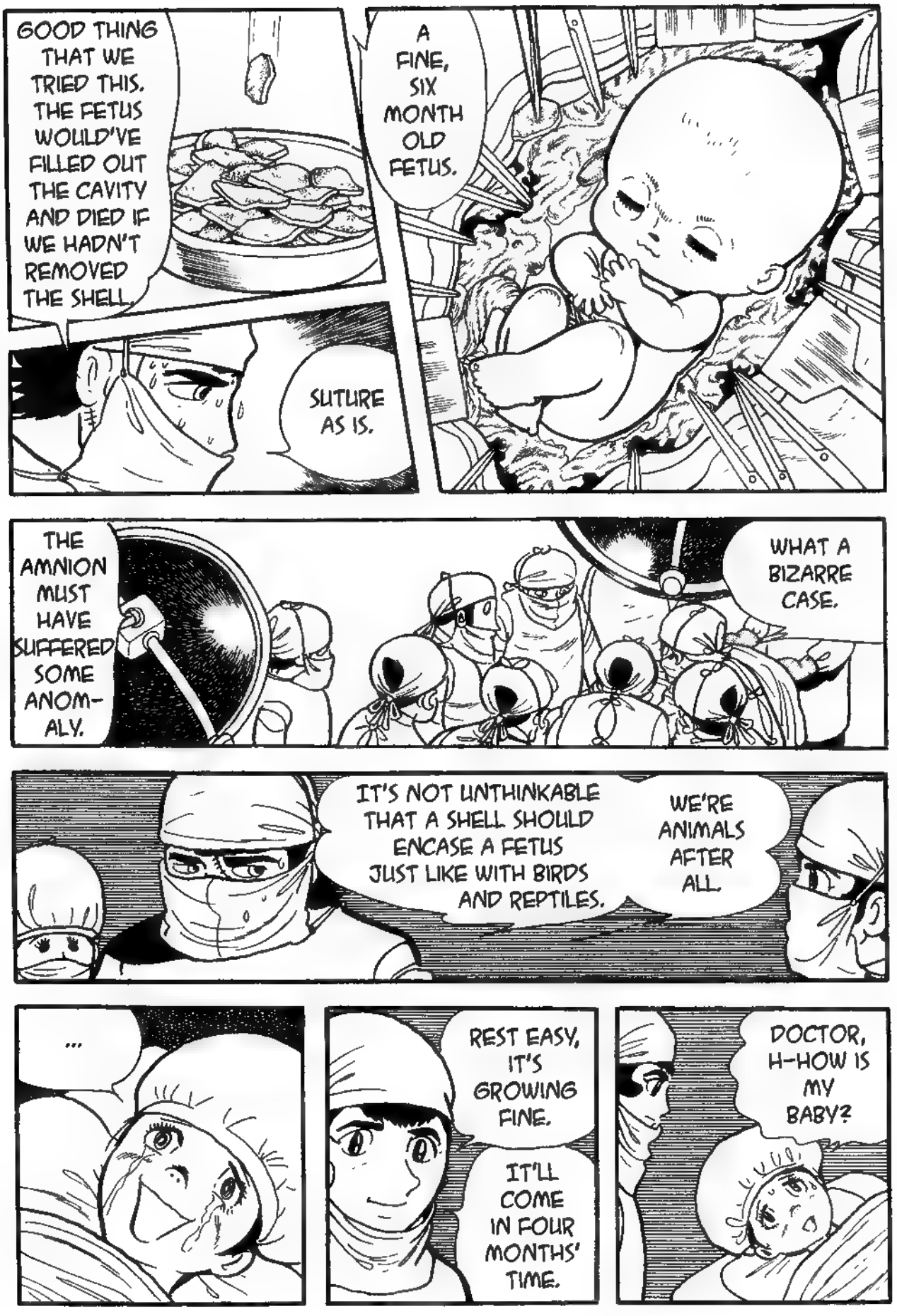
LET'S OPERATE.
YOU SEE, THE HUMAN BODY PLAYS THESE INCREDIBLE TRICKS ONCE IN A WHILE THAT DEFY COMMON SENSE.
NO, JUST TAKING A PEEK.
I WANT TO SEE THIS LIVING STATUE.
YOU'RE TAKING IT OUT ?!
A CAESARIAN ?
PLEASE, LET IT BE FINE!
IF THERE'S AN ANOMALY WE'LL PROCEED TO REMOVE THE FETUS.
EXAMINING UTERINE CONTENT BY CAESARIAN INCISION.
HELLO, IS THIS THE INN? GIMME THAT BASTARD OWNER !

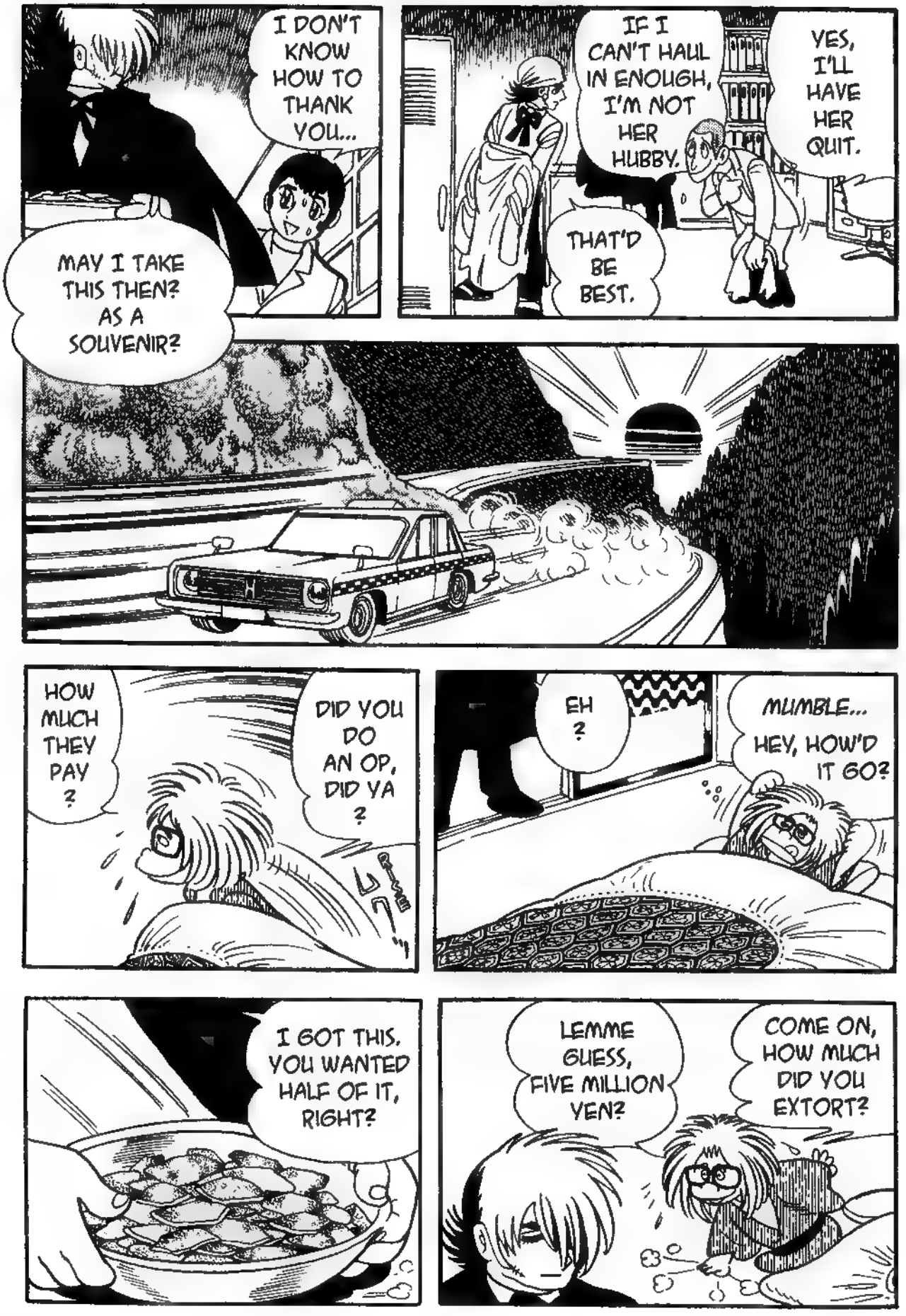

TWICE SHE MISCARRIED, AND NOW THIS!
IT'S CUZ YOU WORK HER TO THE BONE !
WHY'RE YOU BLAMING ME ?
SHUT UP, ASS !!
THERE WE HAVE IT !

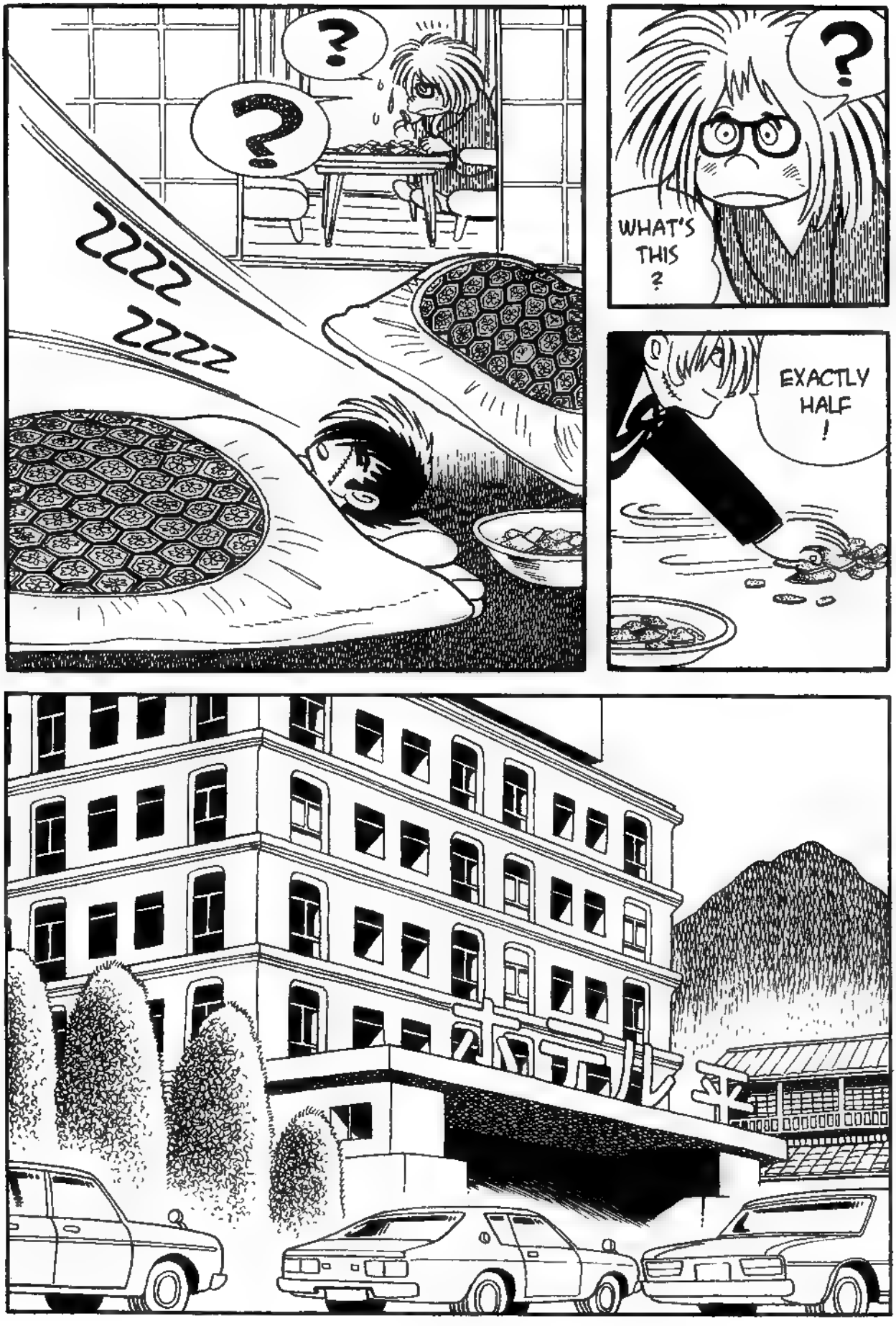

HUH, BUT WAIT A SEC ...
SEE, IT'S ALL PETRIFIED ...
THE PLACENTA IS STILL ATTACHED.
NO WAY THIS THING COULD BE ALIVE.
WHAT?
WAIT... IT ACTUALLY GOES INTO IT.
HEY, THE CORD'S STILL STUCK TO THE LUMP!
AND SO IS THE UMBILICAL CORD. HMM...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
THIS ISN'T HAPPENING ...
THE BABY IS PROBABLY IN IT!
THIS... STONE MUST BE HOLLOW.

LET ME TRY CRACKING THIS THING.
THE FETUS HAS BEEN ENVELOPED IN A SHELL OF STONE
TOK TOK
LIKE WITH AN EGG! IT'S A SHELL!
BUT IF THERE REALLY IS A FETUS INSIDE, YOU MIGHT HURT IT.
WE'LL TRY OUR LUCK.
THREE CHEERS IF IT WORKS.
DON'T CAUSE A MASSIVE HEMOR-RHAGE.
TAP
IF I DO, WE LOSE BOTH OF THEM.
CONTINUE ANES-THESIA. I'LL BE CAREFUL.

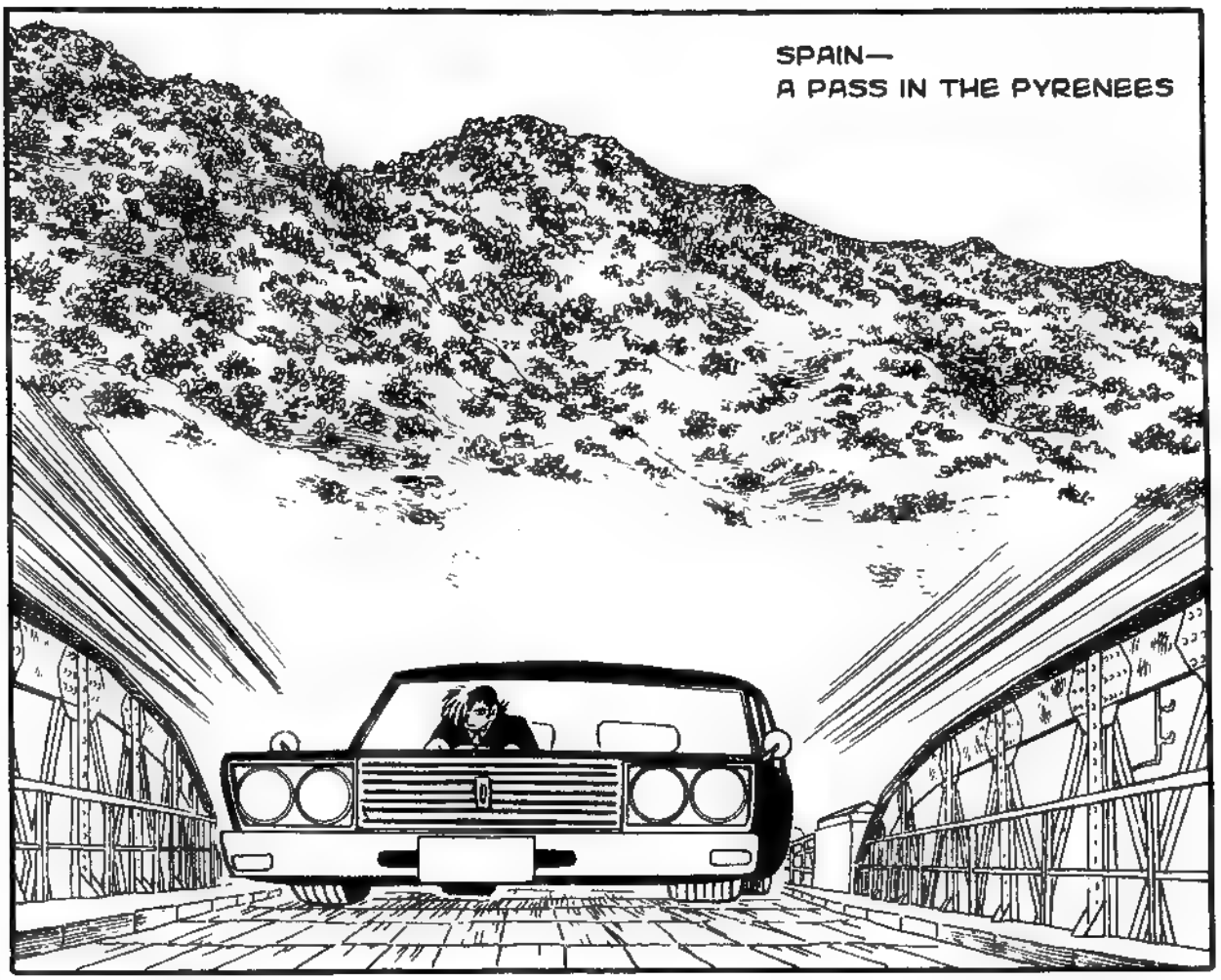
CLANK
CLANK
KSH
HELLO THERE, BABY CHICK.

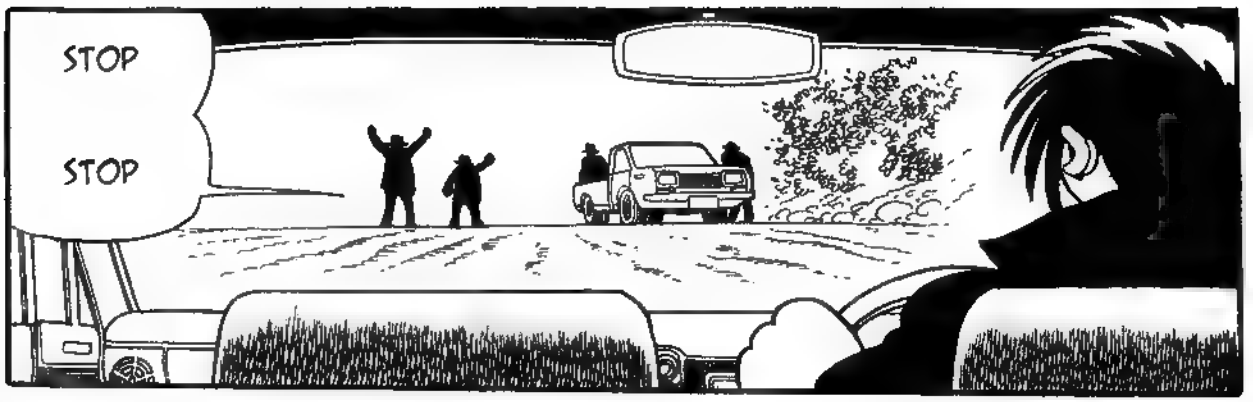

GOOD THING THAT WE TRIED THIS. THE FETUS WOULD'VE FILLED OUT THE CAVITY AND DIED IF WE HADN'T REMOVED THE SHELL.
SUTURE AS IS.
A FINE, SIX MONTH OLD FETUS.
THE AMNION MUST HAVE SUFFERED SOME ANOM-ALY.
WHAT A BIZARRE CASE.
IT'S NOT UNTHINKABLE THAT A SHELL SHOULD ENCASE A FETUS JUST LIKE WITH BIRDS AND REPTILES.
WE'RE ANIMALS AFTER ALL.
...
REST EASY, IT'S GROWING FINE.
IT'LL COME IN FOUR MONTHS' TIME.
DOCTOR, H-HOW IS MY BABY?


I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...
MAY I TAKE THIS THEN? AS A SOUVENIR?
IF I CAN'T HAUL IN ENOUGH, I'M NOT HER HUBBY.
YES, I'LL HAVE HER QUIT.
THAT'D BE BEST.
HOW MUCH THEY PAY?
DID YOU DO AN OP, DID YA?
EH?
MUMBLE...
HEY, HOW'D IT GO?
I GOT THIS. YOU WANTED HALF OF IT, RIGHT?
LEMME GUESS, FIVE MILLION YEN?
COME ON, HOW MUCH DID YOU EXTORT?

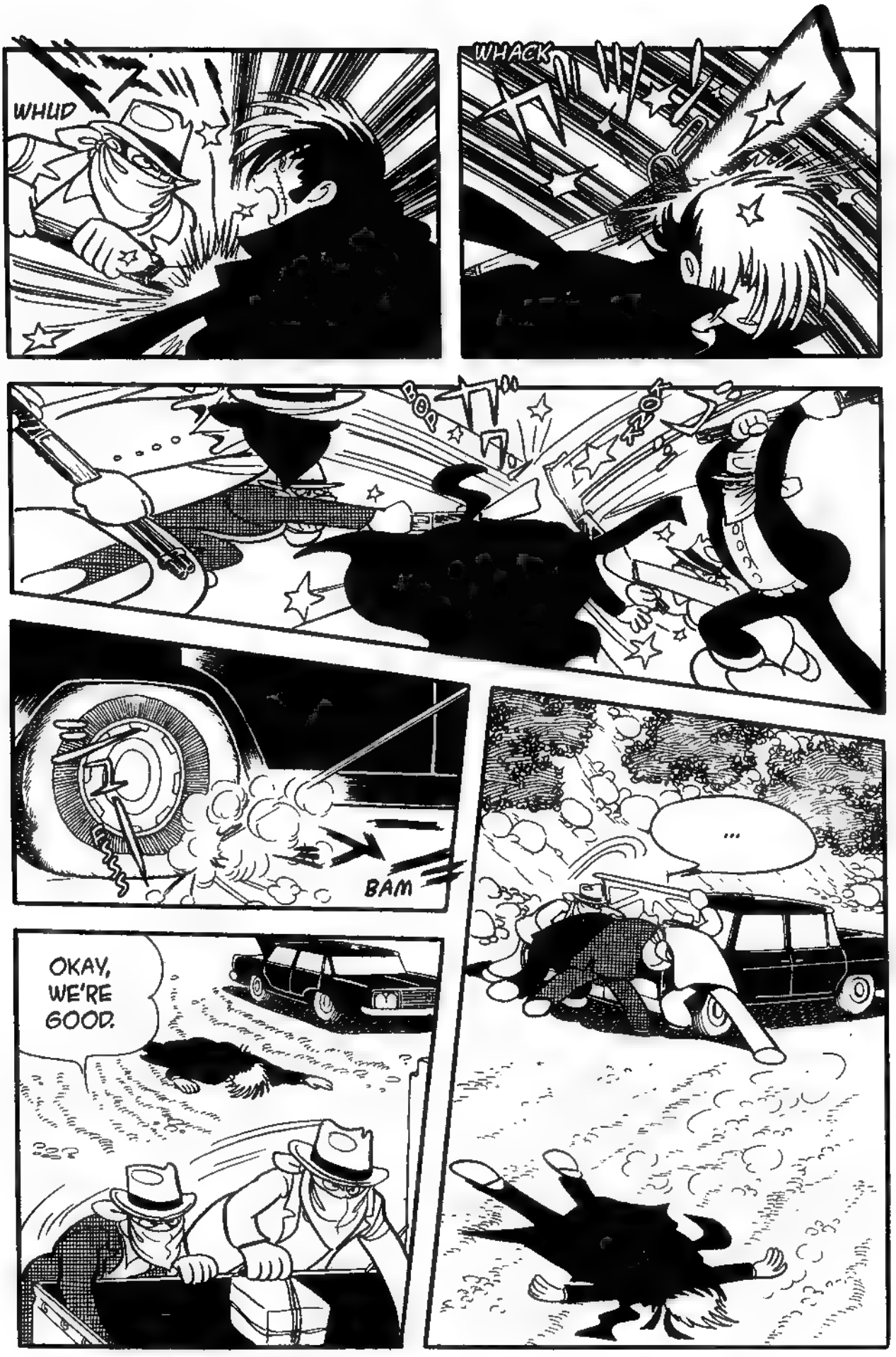

?
?
ZZZ
ZZZ
?
WHAT'S THIS ?
EXACTLY HALF !

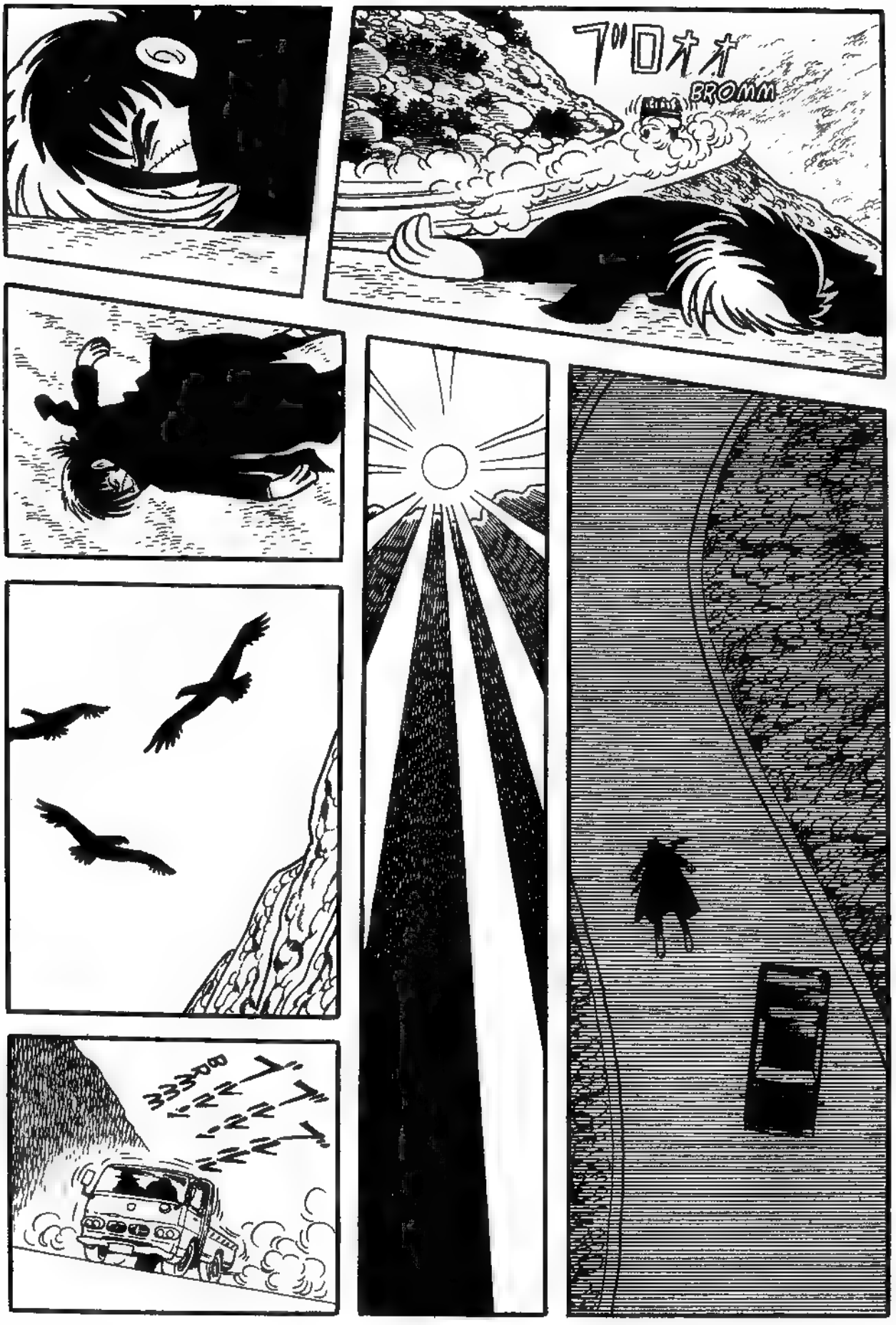
ON THE WAY


SPAIN—
A PASS IN THE PYRENEES

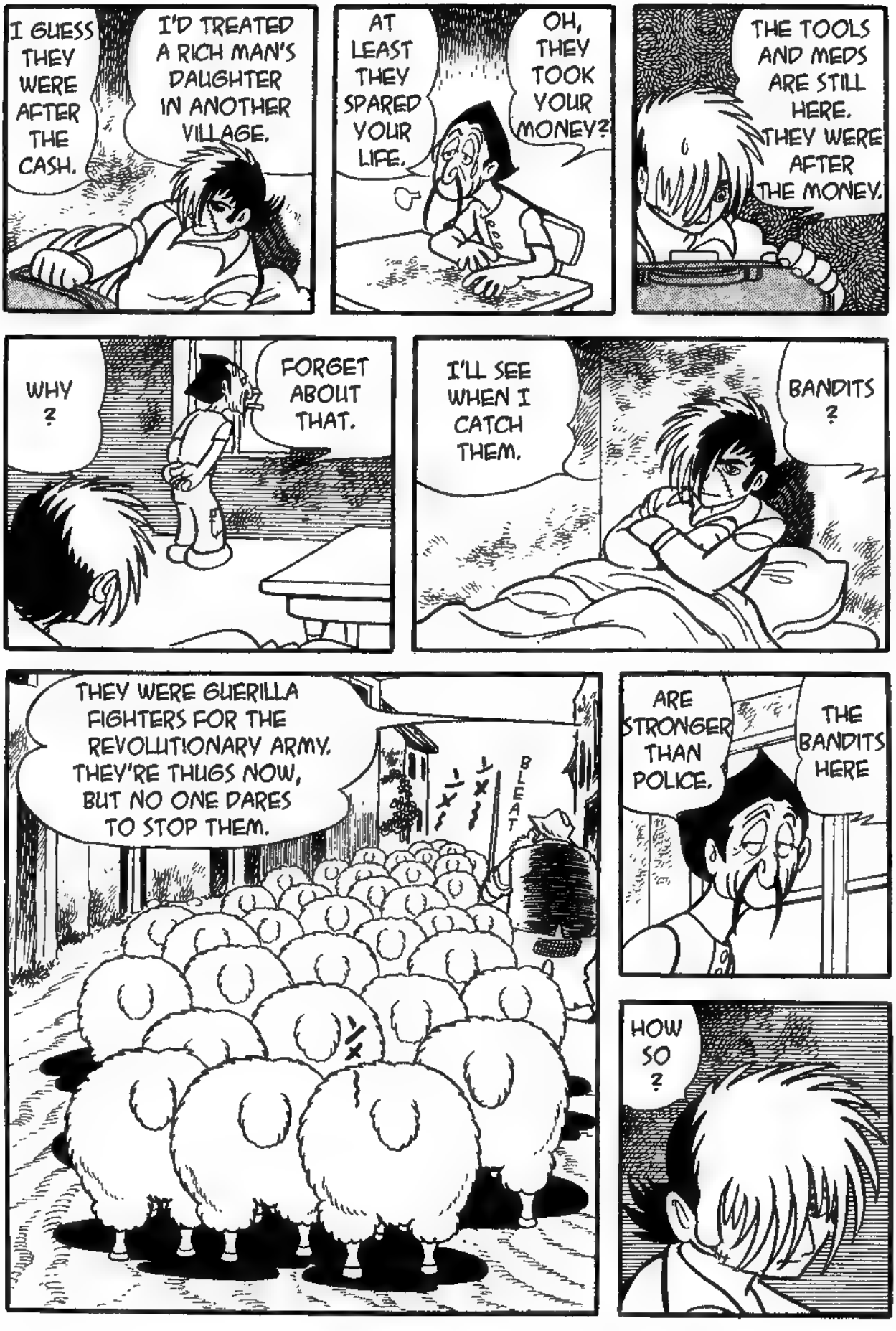

STOP
STOP

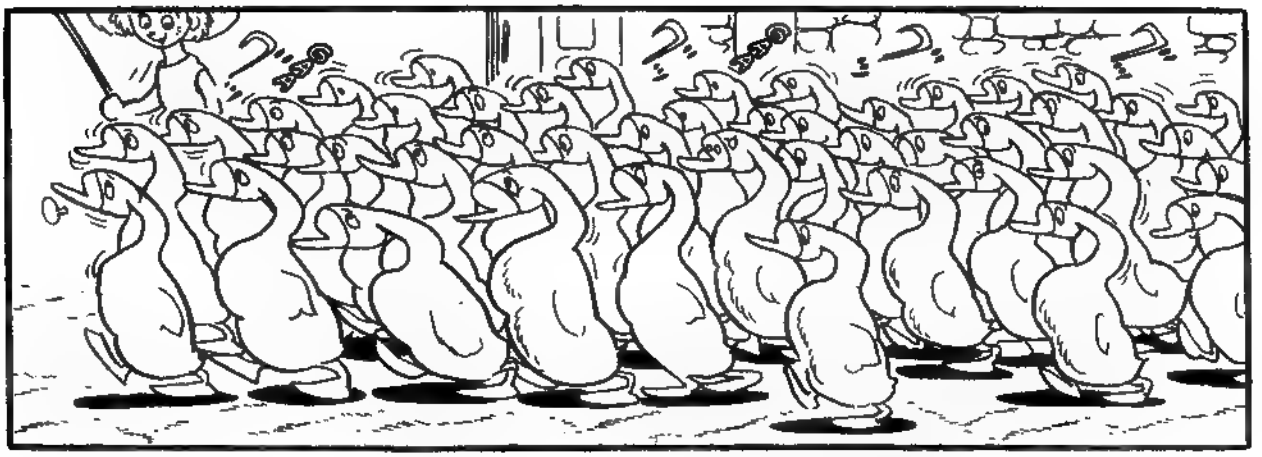
GET OUT, HOMBRE.


WHUD
WHACK
BAM
...
OKAY, WE'RE GOOD.


ブロオオ
BROMM
BRRR

TO THE VILLAGE!
OH MY! THE CAR'S A WRECK TOO.
ARE YOU OKAY?
THAT'S FINE. I'M ONE MYSELF.
WE AIN'T GOT NO DOCTORS HERE...
IT WAS OPEN. SOMEONE RUMMAGED THROUGH IT.
WHAT?!
I TOLD YOU TO PUT HIM IN A BETTER BED!
WHOA, HE'S A DOCTOR?
THE TOOLS OF MY TRADE ARE IN MY CAR'S TRUNK. PLEASE FETCH THE BAG FOR ME.

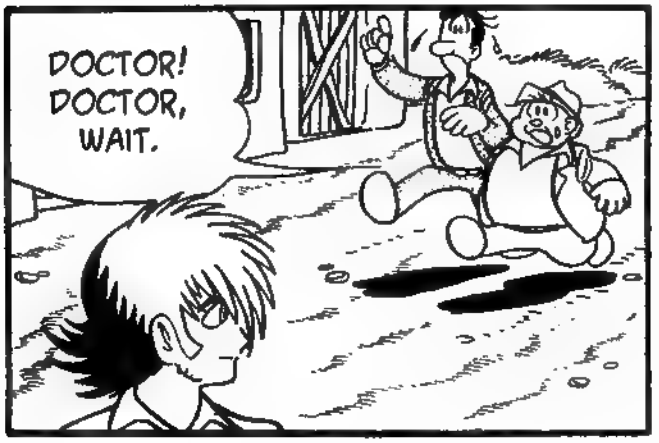

I GUESS THEY WERE AFTER THE CASH.
I'D TREATED A RICH MAN'S DAUGHTER IN ANOTHER VILLAGE.
AT LEAST THEY SPARED YOUR LIFE.
OH, THEY TOOK YOUR MONEY?
THE TOOLS AND MEDS ARE STILL HERE. THEY WERE AFTER THE MONEY.
WHY ?
FORGET ABOUT THAT.
I'LL SEE WHEN I CATCH THEM.
BANDITS ?
THEY WERE GUERILLA FIGHTERS FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY. THEY'RE THUGS NOW, BUT NO ONE DARES TO STOP THEM.
BLEAT
ARE STRONGER THAN POLICE.
THE BANDITS HERE
HOW SO ?



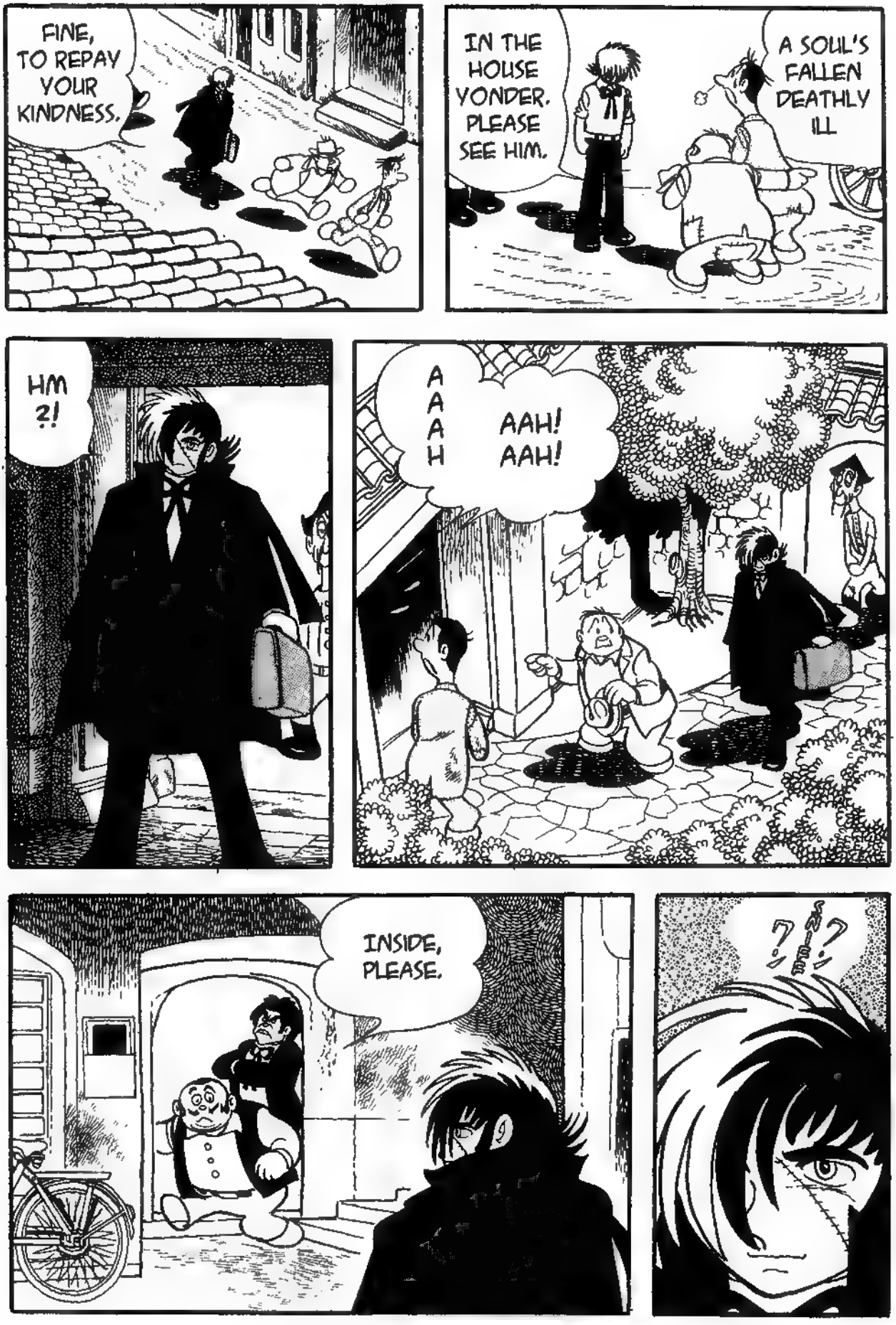
BLEAT

HOLÀ.
HOW ARE YOU, SEÑOR?

STAY AS LONG AS YOU NEED.
IT'S BEEN A WEEK ...

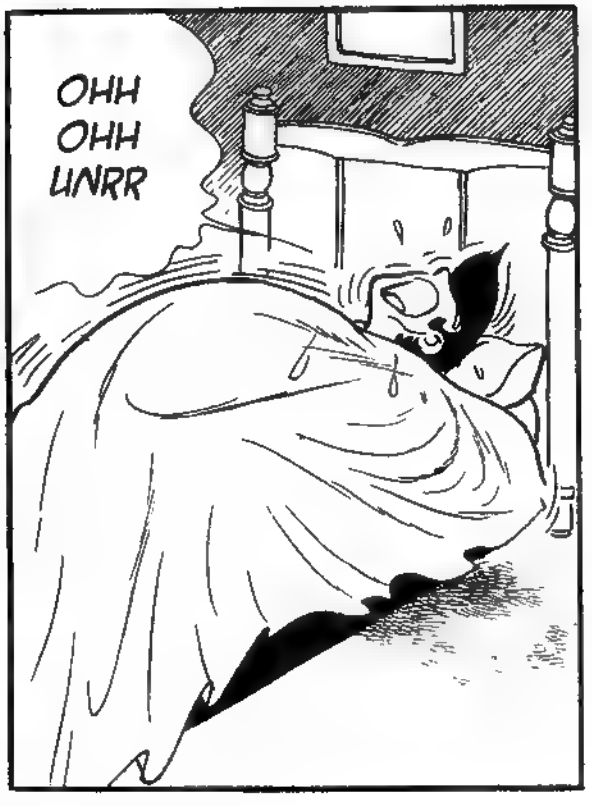

DOCTOR! DOCTOR, WAIT.

N-NO NEED.
IN FACT, I SHOULD GET GOING. HERE'S MY THANKS.


FINE, TO REPAY YOUR KINDNESS.
IN THE HOUSE YONDER. PLEASE SEE HIM.
A SOUL'S FALLEN DEATHLY ILL
HM ?!
AAAH AAH! AAH!
INSIDE, PLEASE.
?!?!

IT'S MY SON WHO'S ILL. PLEASE, EXAMINE HIM.
THIS IS SR. LOPEZ, THE LOCAL BOSS.

TETANUS!


OHH OHH UNRR

OOOGH AAAGH

HE SAID IT WAS HARD TO TALK. HE CAN'T SLEEP WELL.
HE'S HAD TROUBLE CHEWING AND EATING FOOD.
THE SYMP-TOMS SO FAR?
J-JUST THIS MORN-ING.
WHEN DID IT COME TO THIS?
KLALALA
IT'S TETANUS ALL RIGHT.
SUNLIGHT WILL WORSEN THE CONVULSIONS.
NO!
OPEN THE WINDOW SO THE DOCTOR CAN SEE BETTER!
IT'S A DISEASE CALLED TETANUS. YOU GET IT WHEN YOU CUT YOURSELF OUT IN THE WILD AND ADMIT THE BACTERIA.
IS HE POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL?

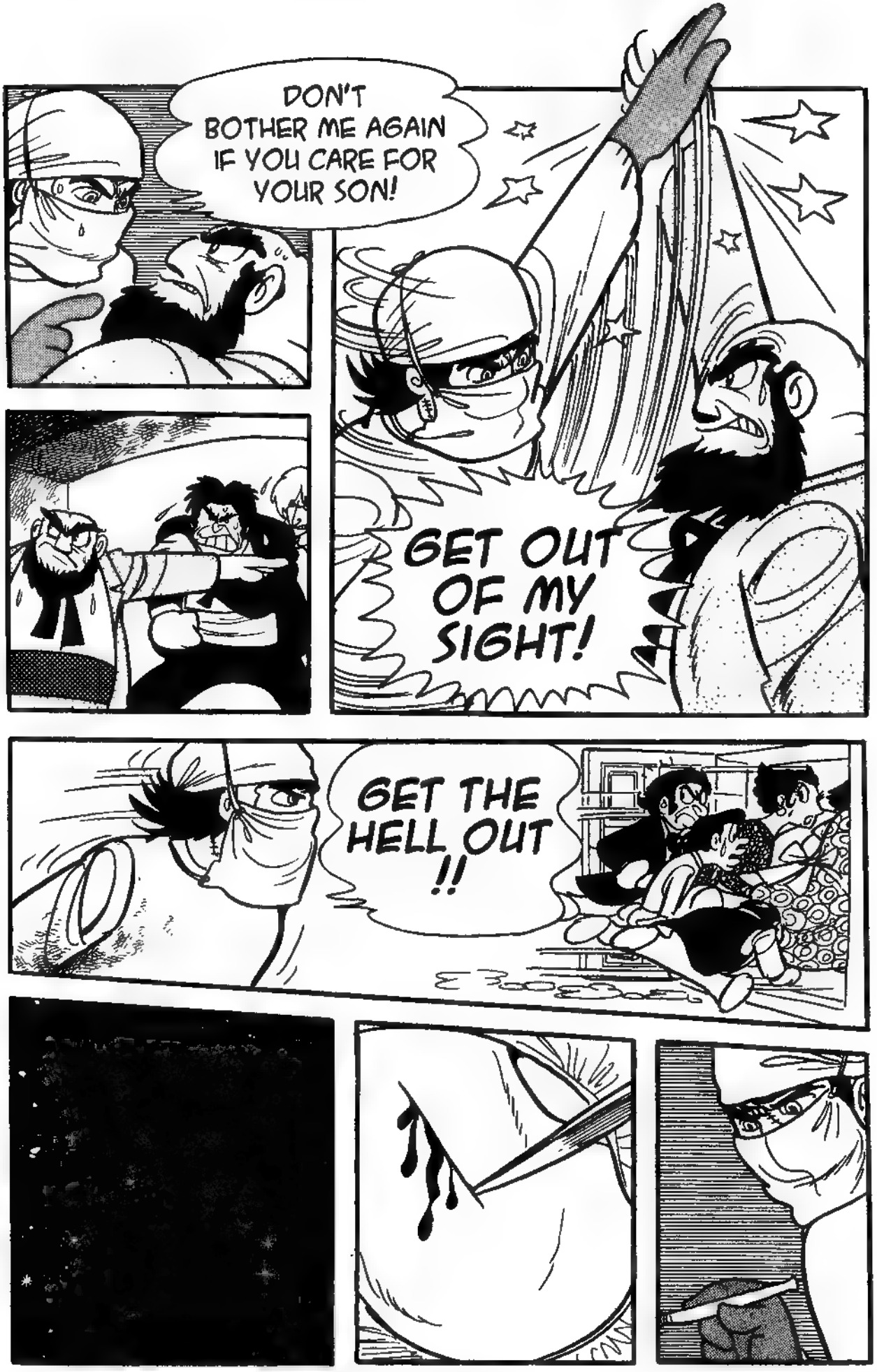
WITH THIS DISEASE, PREVENTION IS KEY. IF IT PROGRESSES THIS FAR, GOD HELP YOU.
DOCTOR, DON'T LET MY SON DIE!
IF THE FITS ARE BAD, YOU'RE 90% DEAD.
HOW MUCH ?
I... I'LL PAY WHATEVER I CAN...
MAYBE YOU CAN ACTUALLY FIND THE MONEY ?
YOU'RE THE BOSS HERE.
...
...
THE ENTIRE SUM YOUR SON ROBBED FROM ME!

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY? ONE BANDIT'S ARMPITS GAVE OFF A REALLY FOUL ODOR! UNFORGETTABLY FOUL.
I REALIZED AS SOON AS I ARRIVED THAT THE BANDIT WHO ROBBED ME A WEEK AGO IS NONE OTHER THAN YOUR SON.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO FRAME MY SON ?
DOCTOR
IT WAS HIS ODOR!
...
SAY THAT AGAIN, AND YOUR BRAIN WILL LEARN HOW TO FLY.
I'M SURE IT WAS HIM.
UH-UH.

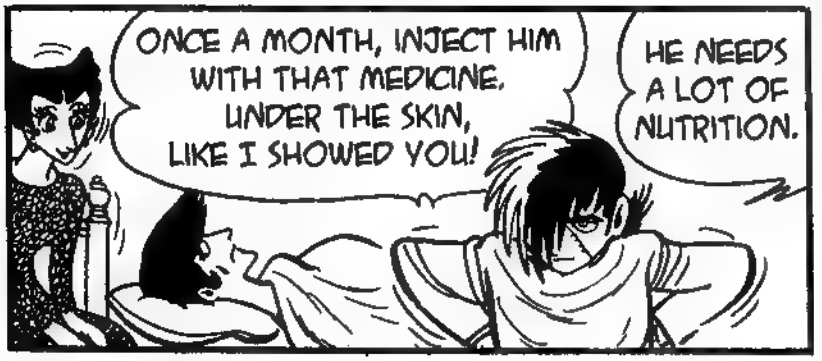
IF THIS IS YOUR THANKS, I'M LEAVING.
I WAS TOLD YOU NEEDED A DOCTOR.
SUIT YOURSELF.
BUT
WOEH
...
THUMP
OR YOU WON'T STEP OUT OF MY HOUSE ALIVE.
DOCTOR, CURE MY SON
HOT WATER AND LOADS OF TOWELS!

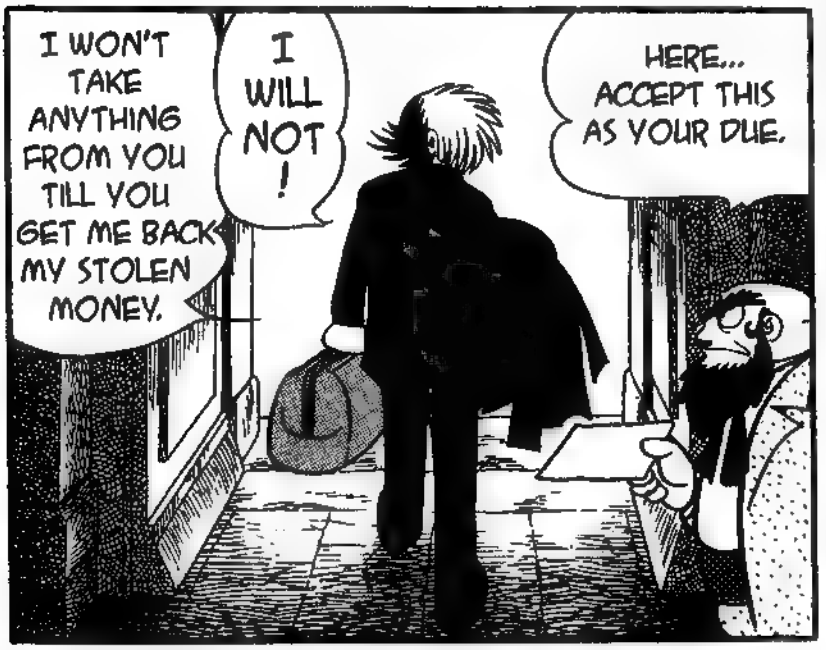
JUST HURRY UP AND CHASE THE DEVIL OUT OF HIS BODY.
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE VACCINES OR ANTITOXIC SERUMS, WE'LL TREAT THE SYMPTOMS.
I SAID HURRY! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ?
URGH
IF YOU CAN CURE HIM, OKAY.
PIPE DOWN, AMATEUR. IF THEY AREN'T STERILE, HE'LL GET A SECONDARY INFECTION.
AAAAGH!

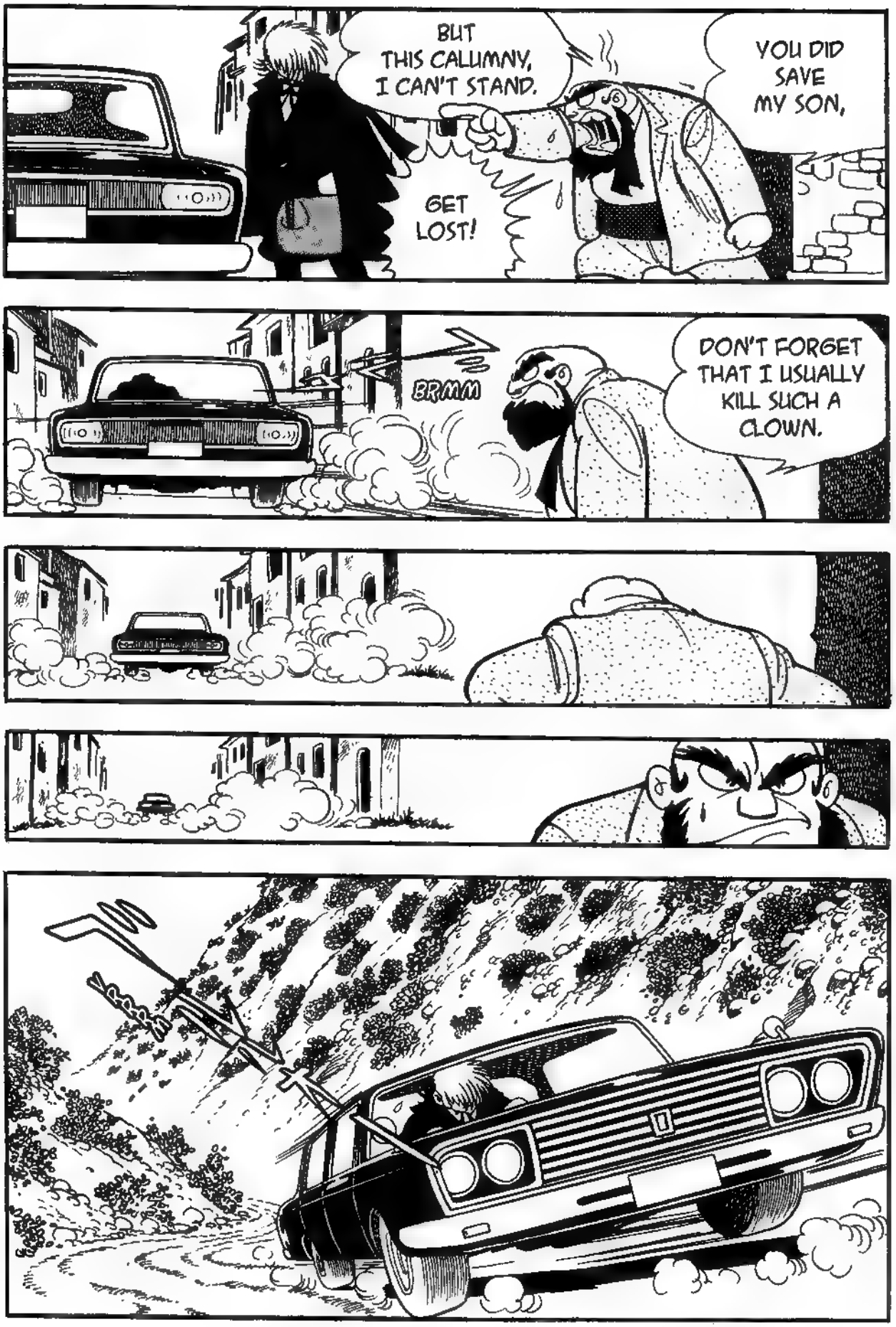
HIS BREATH-ING'S STOPPED.
NOT GOOD AT ALL.
GRR GRR GRR
I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE HIM A TRACH.
SPREAD THAT SHEET, QUICK.
DID HE DIE ?!
IF YOU DO ANYTHING FUNNY, I'LL BUTCHER YOU.


DON'T BOTHER ME AGAIN IF YOU CARE FOR YOUR SON!
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!
GET THE HELL OUT !!

NICE, THE SURGICAL WOUND IS HEALING WELL, TOO.


ONCE A MONTH, INJECT HIM WITH THAT MEDICINE. UNDER THE SKIN, LIKE I SHOWED YOU!
HE NEEDS A LOT OF NUTRITION.


I WON'T TAKE ANYTHING FROM YOU TILL YOU GET ME BACK MY STOLEN MONEY.
I WILL NOT!
HERE... ACCEPT THIS AS YOUR DUE.


BUT THIS CALUMNY, I CAN'T STAND.
GET LOST!
YOU DID SAVE MY SON,
BRMM
DON'T FORGET THAT I USUALLY KILL SUCH A CLOWN.

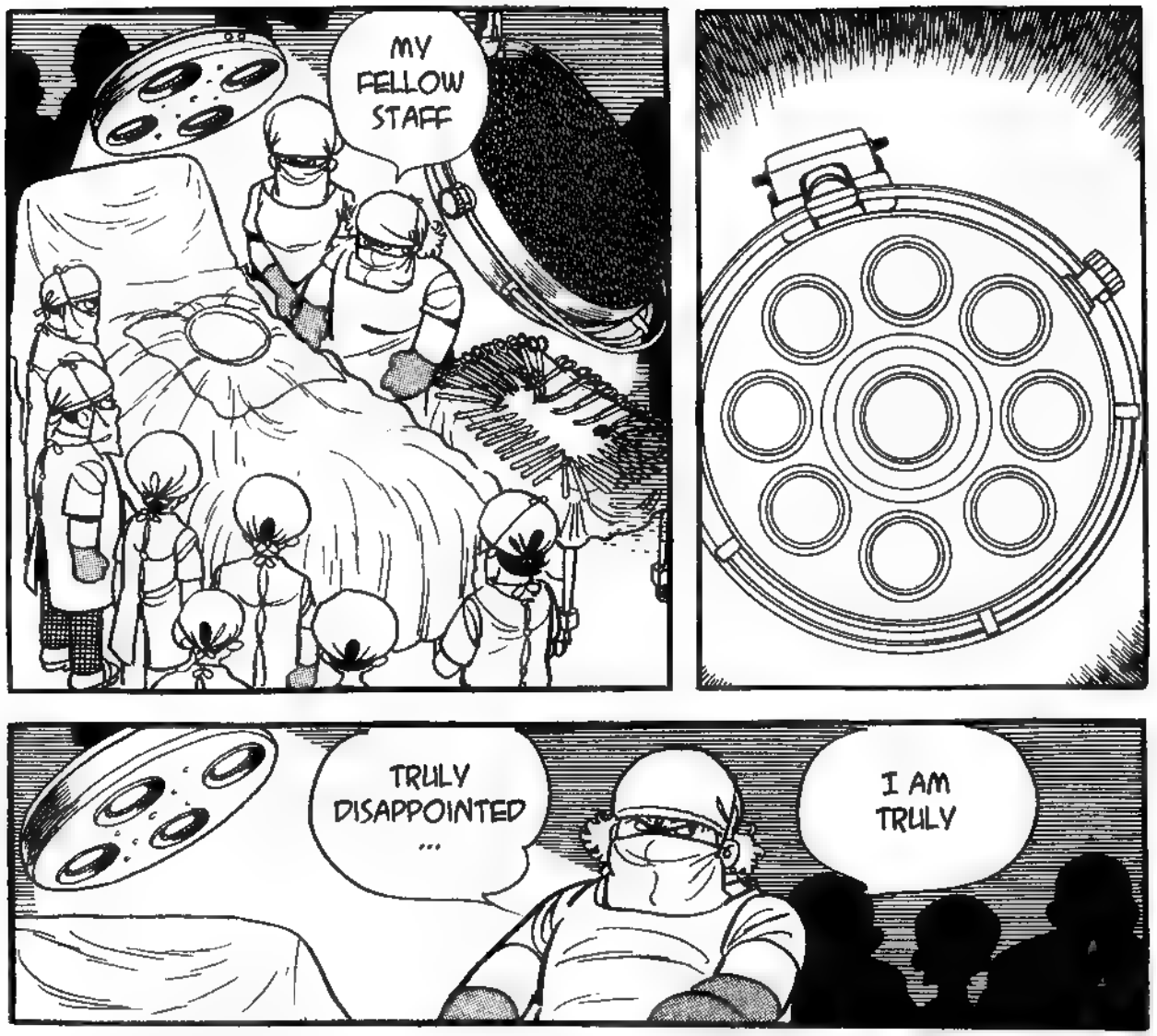
SKREE
A YEAR LATER
—JAPAN
YOU ARE ...!

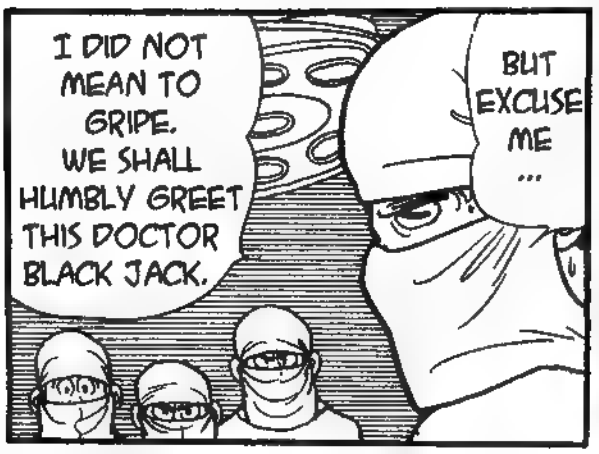
ALL I KNEW WAS YOUR NATIONALITY, SO I HAD TO ASK AROUND THE WORLD TO LEARN YOUR NAME.
AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU.
OFFER MY APOLOGY!
I'VE COME TO...
I THOUGHT WE WERE BACK TO BEING STRANGERS.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
IT WAS MY SON AND HIS BUDDIES WHO ROBBED YOU.
I GRILLED HIM AFTER YOU LEFT. I HAD TO PRY THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM. YOU WERE RIGHT!
DET
HERE'S YOUR MONEY!

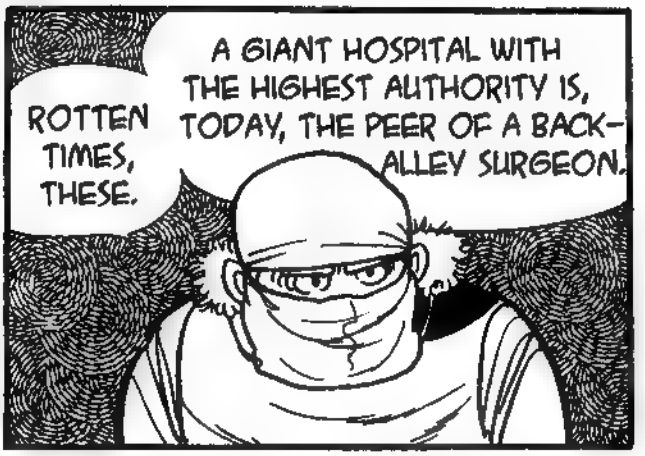
I REALLY HAD NO IDEA... THAT IT WAS MY SON.
BUT ONE THING I HONOR IS DEBT.
TRUE, I MAKE A LIVING BY ROUGH MEANS, DOCTOR. I'M NOT ABOVE MURDER.
THE MAN WHO LEFT YOU FOR DEAD. DO AS YOU PLEASE WITH HIM.
THE CULPRIT IS YOURS!
WE'RE NOT IN THE PYRENEES. THIS IS JAPAN ...
GO AHEAD, KILL HIM !
PLEASE SHOOT MY SON !
NOT TO WORRY, I'LL SAY THAT I DID IT.

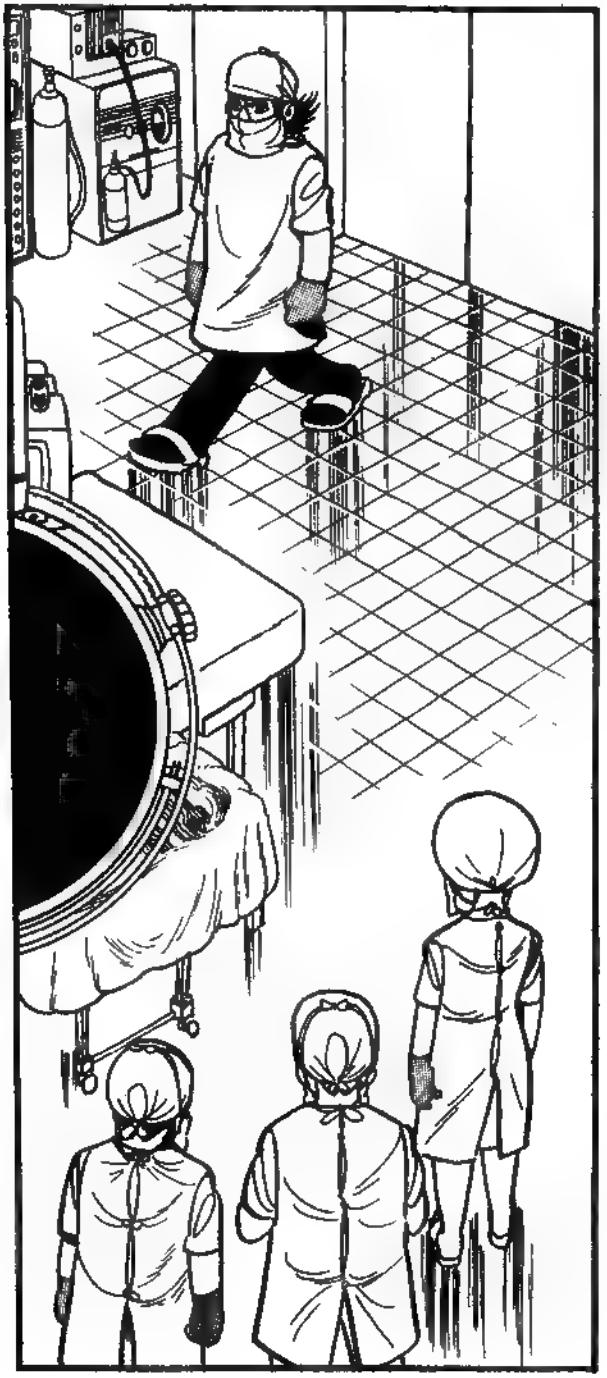
I'LL JUST FEEL LIKE TREATING HIM.
IF I SHOOT HIM...
NAH.
TONK
HA HA
HA
AND I DON'T EVER WANT TO AGAIN, NOT THIS BASTARD. TAKE HIM HOME!
HEH HEH
HA HA HA WAH HAH HAH WAH HAH!

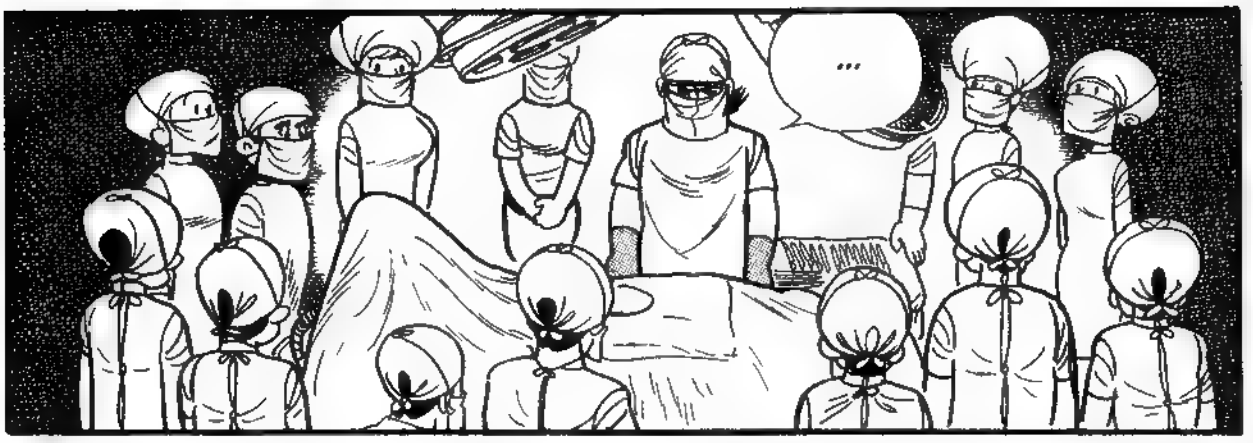
COLD DISDAIN


MY FELLOW STAFF
TRULY DISAPPOINTED ...
I AM TRULY
IT IS MY DARKEST DAY AS HEAD OF SURGERY.
AND THAT WE ARE HANDING THE CASE TO A NOBODY WHO IS NOT EVEN LICENSED.
THAT THE RENOWNED JAPAN GENERAL HOSPITAL'S EVERY EFFORT HAS FAILED AGAINST THIS STRANGE MALADY ...


I DID NOT MEAN TO GRIPE. WE SHALL HUMBLY GREET THIS DOCTOR BLACK JACK.
BUT EXCUSE ME ...


ROTTEN TIMES, THESE.
A GIANT HOSPITAL WITH THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY IS, TODAY, THE PEER OF A BACK-ALLEY SURGEON.

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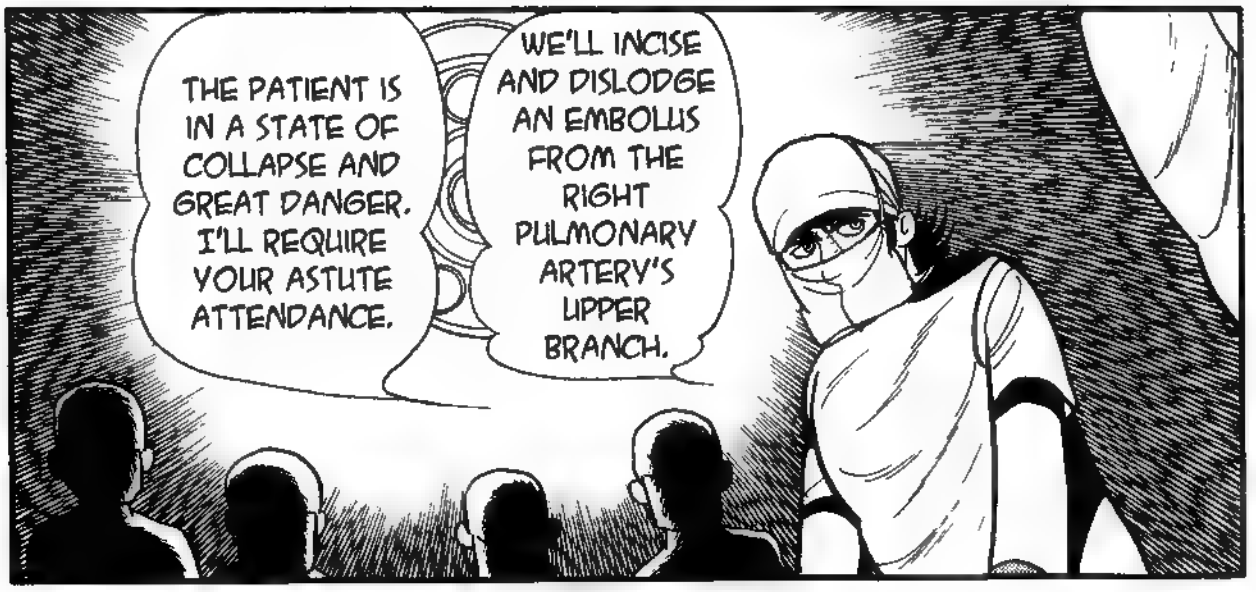

THE PATIENT IS IN A STATE OF COLLAPSE AND GREAT DANGER. I'LL REQUIRE YOUR ASTUTE ATTENDANCE.
WE'LL INCISE AND DISLODGE AN EMBOLUS FROM THE RIGHT PULMONARY ARTERY'S UPPER BRANCH.

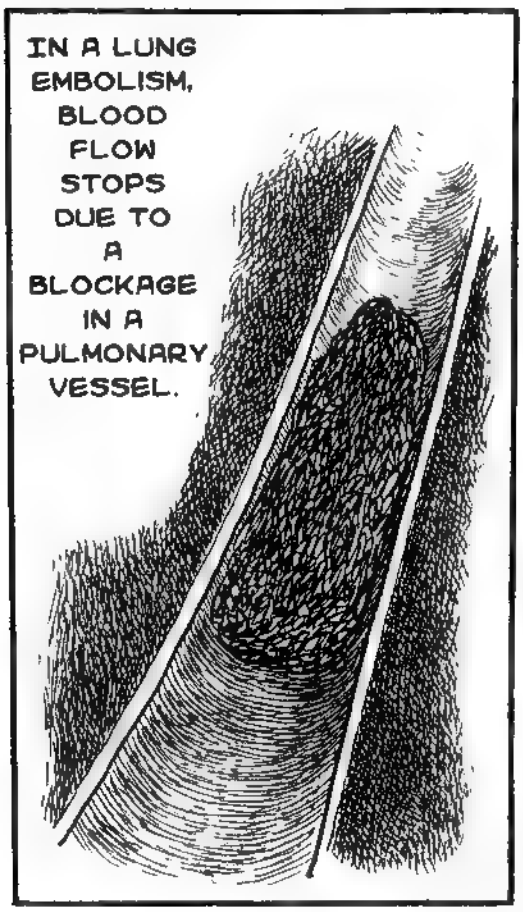
WHAT'S WRONG? SCALPEL !

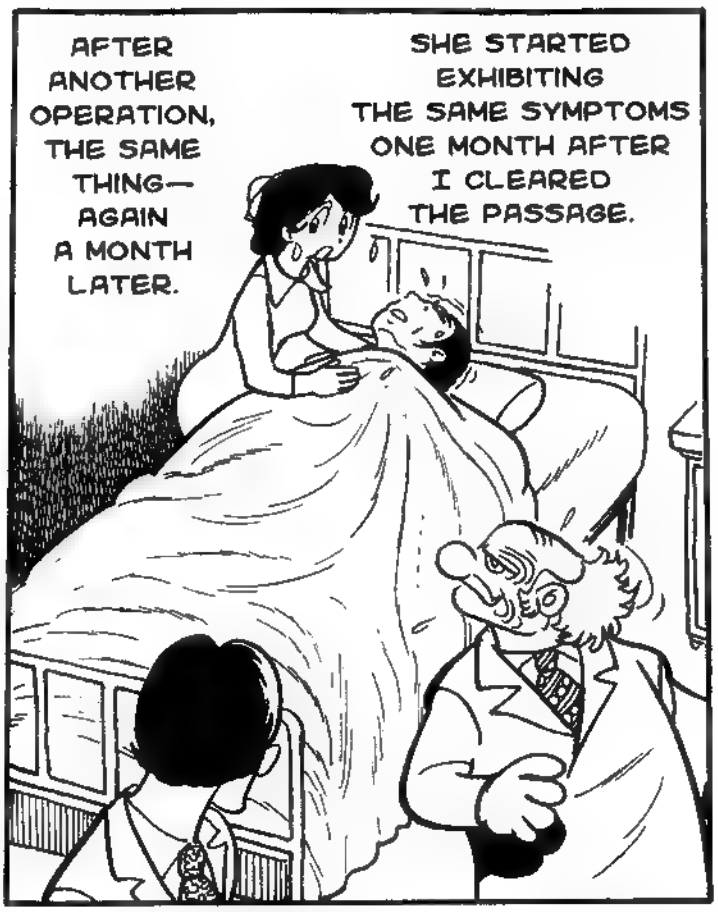
SLICE
LEAVE IT TO OUR STAFF UNTIL WE GET TO THE SEAT OF DISEASE.
QUICKER. DON'T BE DREAMING.
DOYEN RASPATO-RIUM.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DO EVERYTHING. YOU CAN JUST TREAT THE AFFLICTED AREA.
WHY, DR. SAKA-KIBARA ?
THAT'S TRUE. BUT BLACK JACK, AN OPERATION IS NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN TRY TO PERFORM ALONE.
BUT I WAS ASKED TO CONDUCT THIS SURGERY !

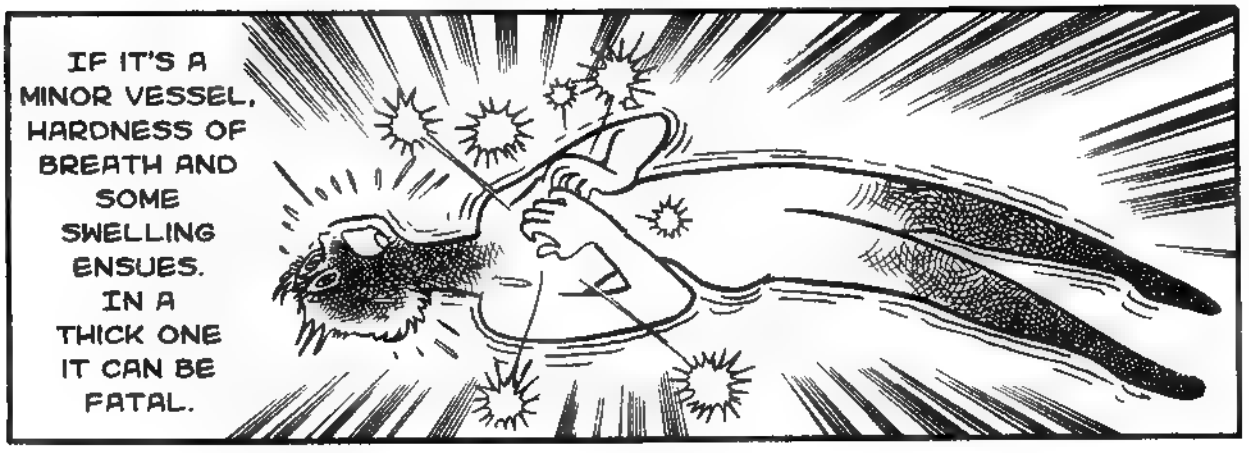
MIND YOU, WE AREN'T JUST REMOVING A THORN FROM A FINGER HERE.
AT MY CLINIC, I WIELD MY SCALPEL ALONE.
TEAMWORK IS PARAMOUNT IN SURGERY. IT'S NOT A ONE-MAN SHOW.
YES.
VERY WELL, HAND HIM THE RASPA-TORIUM.
HURRY UP !!
RIB CUT-TER !
SNAP

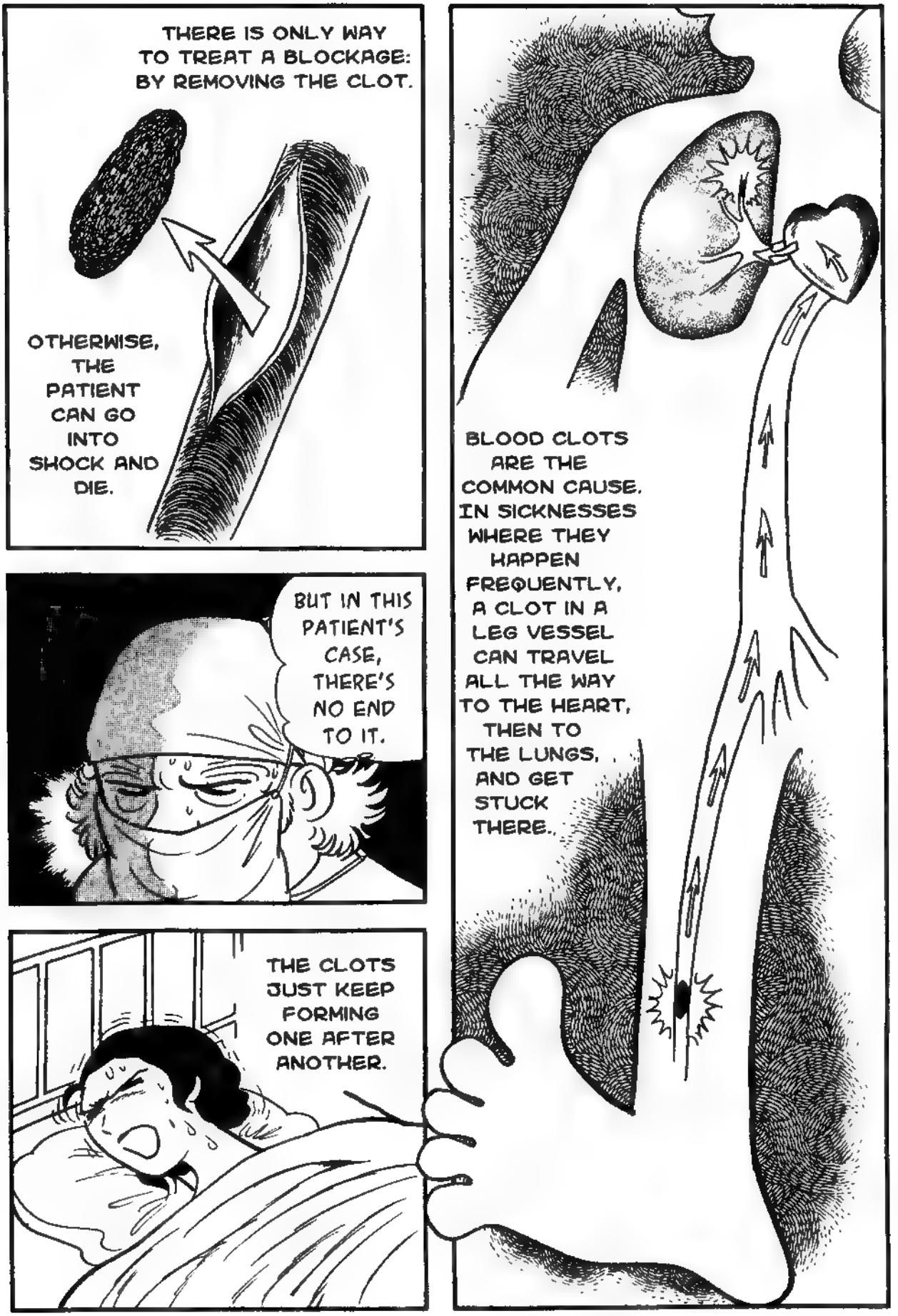
THAT'S RISKY. HER HEART IS IN A WEAK STATE.
NOR-ADRENALINE! ALSO HYDRO-CORTISONE!
PRESSURE 1 MMHG DOWN.
YOU'LL NOT BE RUDE TO DOCTOR SAKAKIBARA!
STOP CRABBING, WILL YOU?
THEN DO AS YOU WISH. SHE IS YOUR PATIENT.
PARDON ME...
NO, IT'S TOO EARLY.
A TRANSFUSION WOULD BE BETTER, I THINK.

THIS CASE IS BEYOND HOPE.
IF IT WERE, I'D HAVE CURED HER ALREADY.
BUT THIS ISN'T YOUR GARDEN-VARIETY LUNG EMBOLISM.


IN A LUNG EMBOLISM, BLOOD FLOW STOPS DUE TO A BLOCKAGE IN A PULMONARY VESSEL.

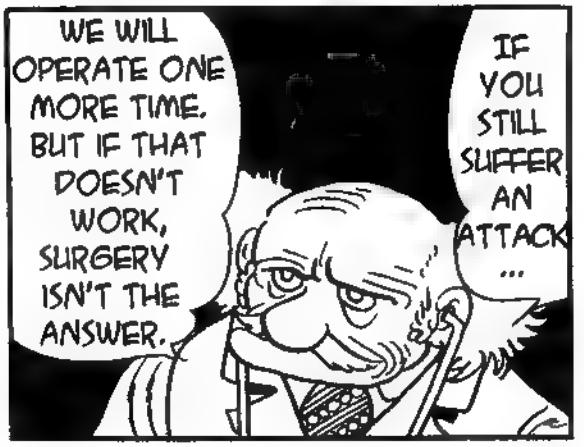

AFTER ANOTHER OPERATION, THE SAME THING— AGAIN A MONTH LATER.
SHE STARTED EXHIBITING THE SAME SYMPTOMS ONE MONTH AFTER I CLEARED THE PASSAGE.

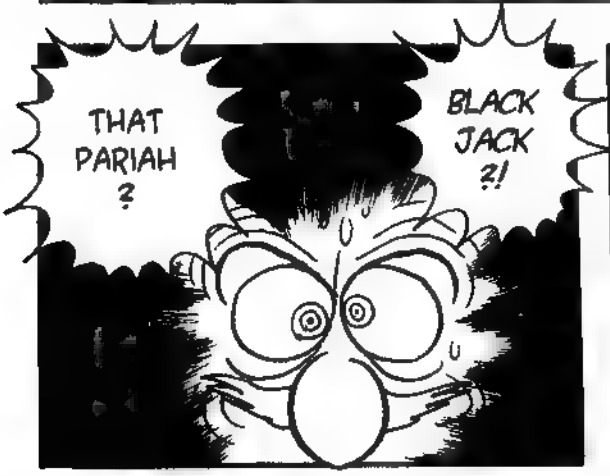

IF IT'S A MINOR VESSEL, HARDNESS OF BREATH AND SOME SWELLING ENSUES. IN A THICK ONE IT CAN BE FATAL.


THERE IS ONLY WAY TO TREAT A BLOCKAGE: BY REMOVING THE CLOT.
OTHERWISE, THE PATIENT CAN GO INTO SHOCK AND DIE.
BLOOD CLOTS ARE THE COMMON CAUSE. IN SICKNESSES WHERE THEY HAPPEN FREQUENTLY, A CLOT IN A LEG VESSEL CAN TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO THE HEART, THEN TO THE LUNGS, AND GET STUCK THERE.
BUT IN THIS PATIENT'S CASE, THERE'S NO END TO IT.
THE CLOTS JUST KEEP FORMING ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

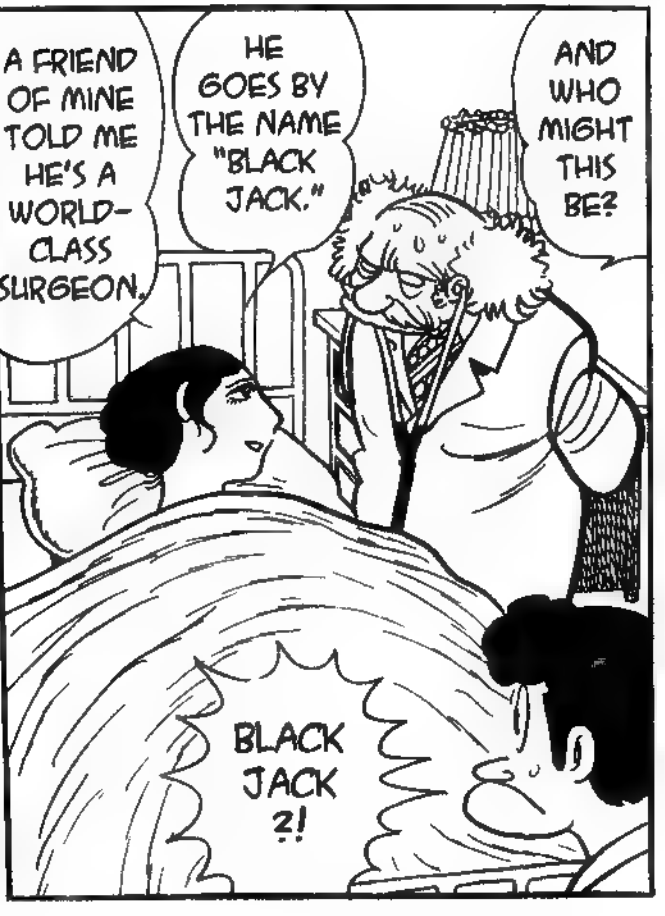
SO THERE'S NO END TO THIS ?
IT MIGHT BE A CONSTI-TUTIONAL DEFECT.

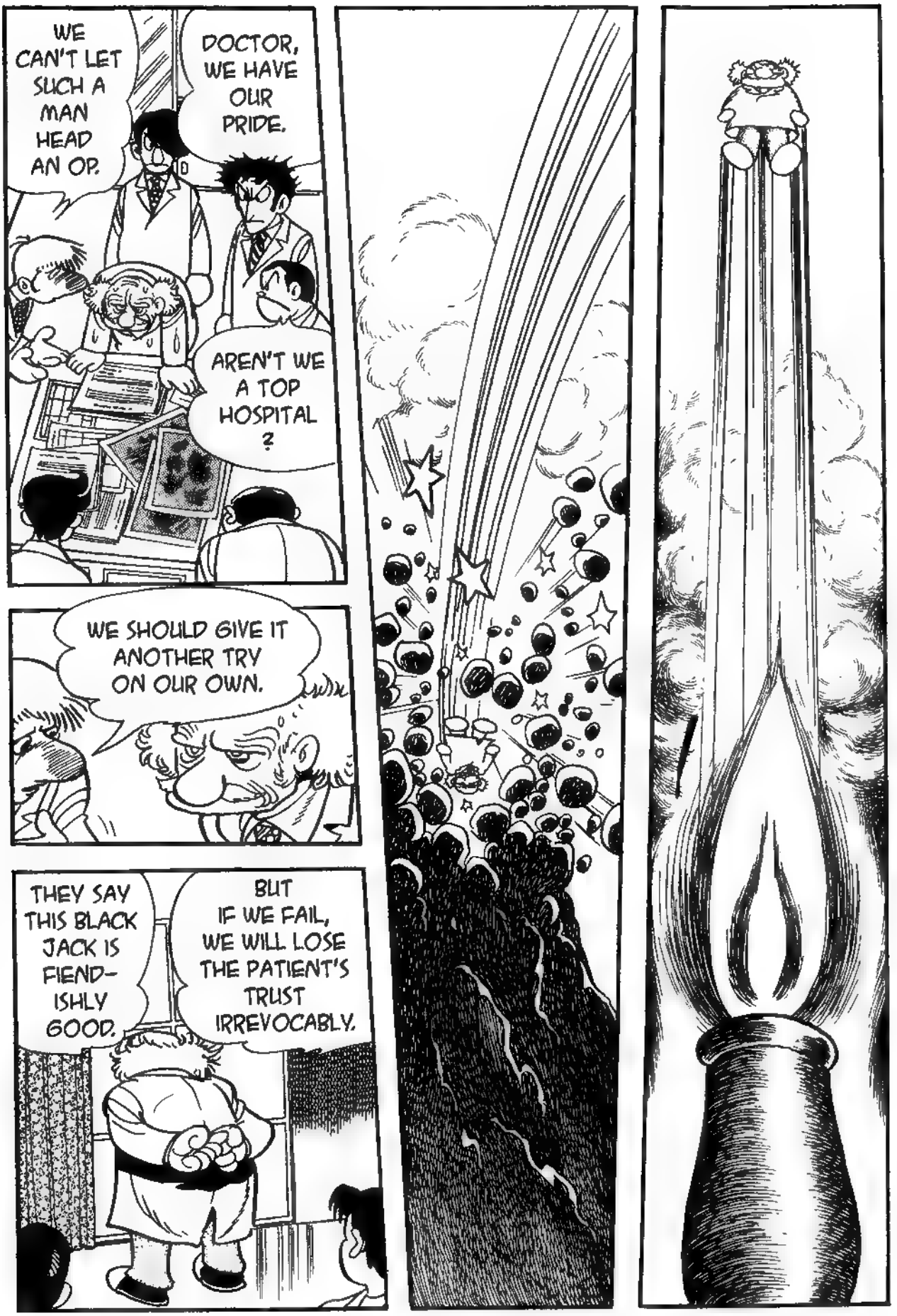
THEN I HAVE A REQUEST.
DOCTOR, IF YOU'RE WILLING TO DO IT AGAIN,
I WANT A CERTAIN SURGEON.


WE WILL OPERATE ONE MORE TIME. BUT IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, SURGERY ISN'T THE ANSWER.
IF YOU STILL SUFFER AN ATTACK ...


THAT PARIAH ?
BLACK JACK ?!

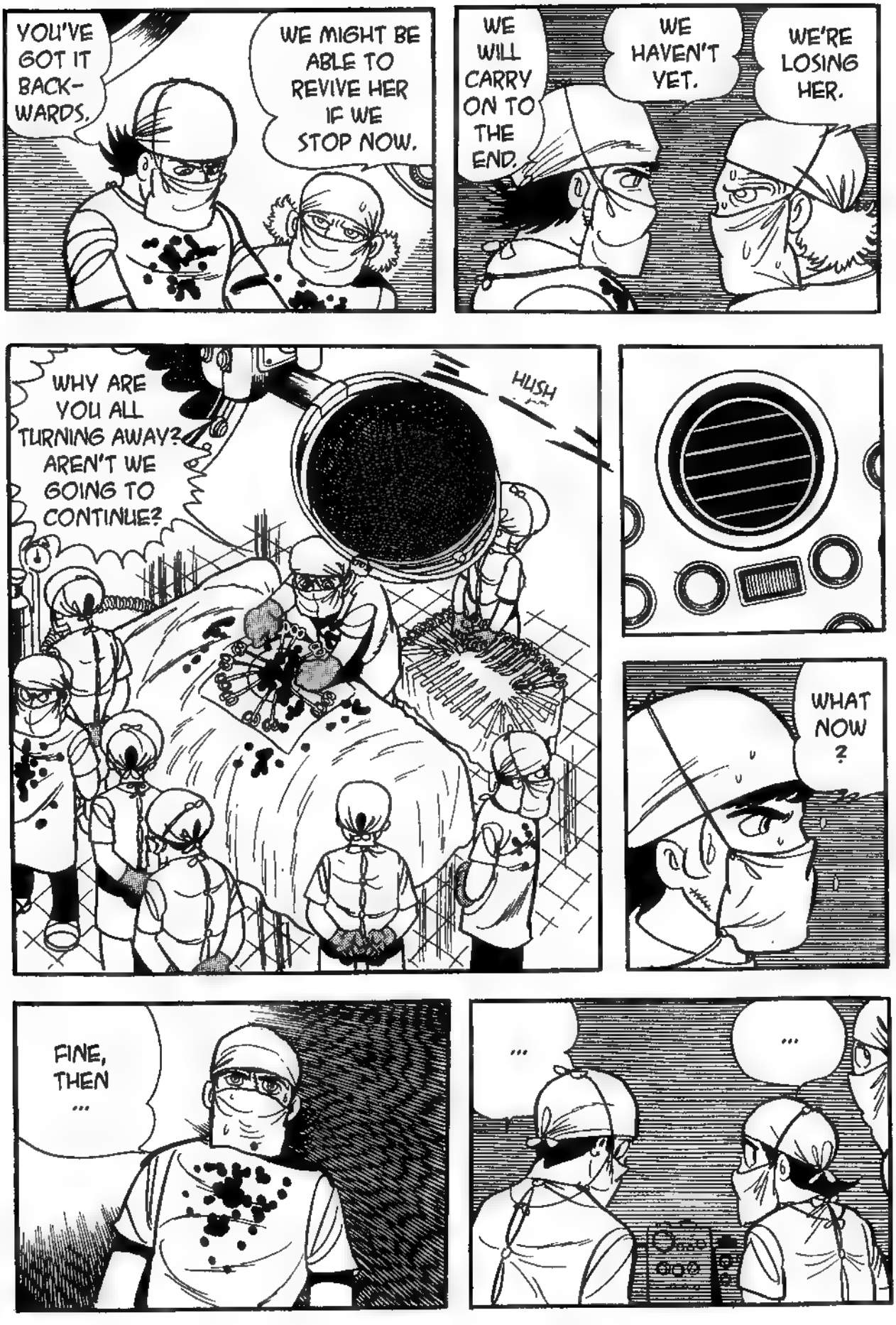
SHOCK


A FRIEND OF MINE TOLD ME HE'S A WORLD-CLASS SURGEON.
HE GOES BY THE NAME "BLACK JACK."
AND WHO MIGHT THIS BE?
BLACK JACK ?!


WE CAN'T LET SUCH A MAN HEAD AN OP.
DOCTOR, WE HAVE OUR PRIDE.
AREN'T WE A TOP HOSPITAL ?
WE SHOULD GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY ON OUR OWN.
THEY SAY THIS BLACK JACK IS FIEND-ISHLY GOOD.
BUT IF WE FAIL, WE WILL LOSE THE PATIENT'S TRUST IRREVOCABLY.

IF HE SUCCEEDS, GOOD. IF HE FAILS, WE'RE NOT TO BLAME.
SINCE THE PATIENT REQUESTS IT, WHY NOT LET HIM OPERATE?
I HIGHLY DOUBT ANY OF IT'S TRUE ...
WHAT?
PÉAN FOR-CEPS.
SHUSH
BRAIN WAVES IRREGULAR.
SHK
SHK
SHK
SCAL-PEL.

NO ...
BLACK JACK, WE NEED TO STOP.
LOSING HEART SOUND. THE PATIENT IS GOING INTO SHOCK.
INCISING ARTERY!
NOR-ADRENALINE VENOUS INJECTION!
ECG IRREGULAR ...
IF WE QUIT NOW, SHE'LL JUST GET WORSE.
SHE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION!
MASSAGE HEART
ABORT OP!
NO, WE CONTINUE!!
HEART STOPPAGE!!

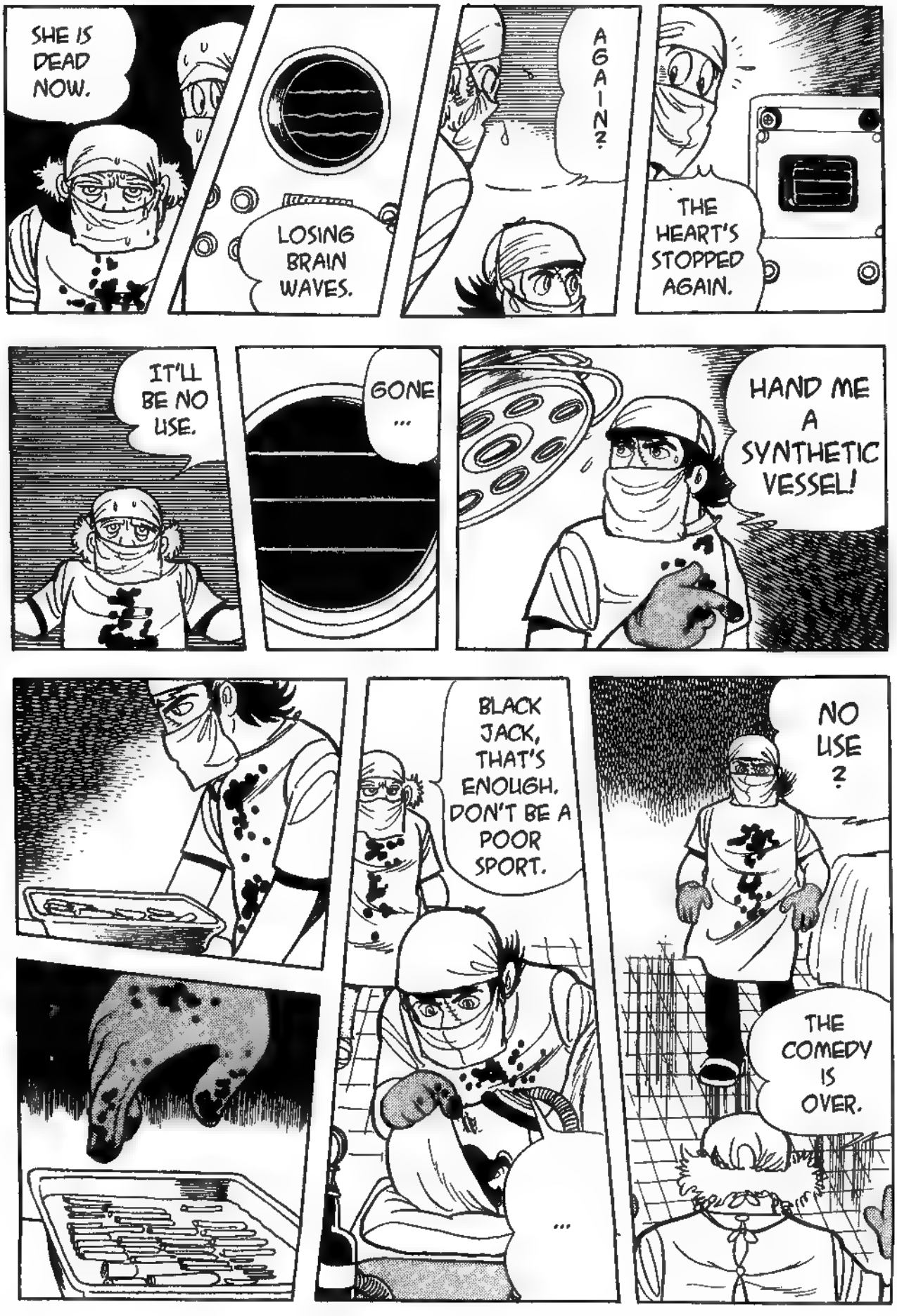

YOU'VE GOT IT BACK-WARDS.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO REVIVE HER IF WE STOP NOW.
WE WILL CARRY ON TO THE END.
WE HAVEN'T YET.
WE'RE LOSING HER.
WHY ARE YOU ALL TURNING AWAY? AREN'T WE GOING TO CONTINUE?
HUSH
WHAT NOW?
FINE, THEN ...
...
...

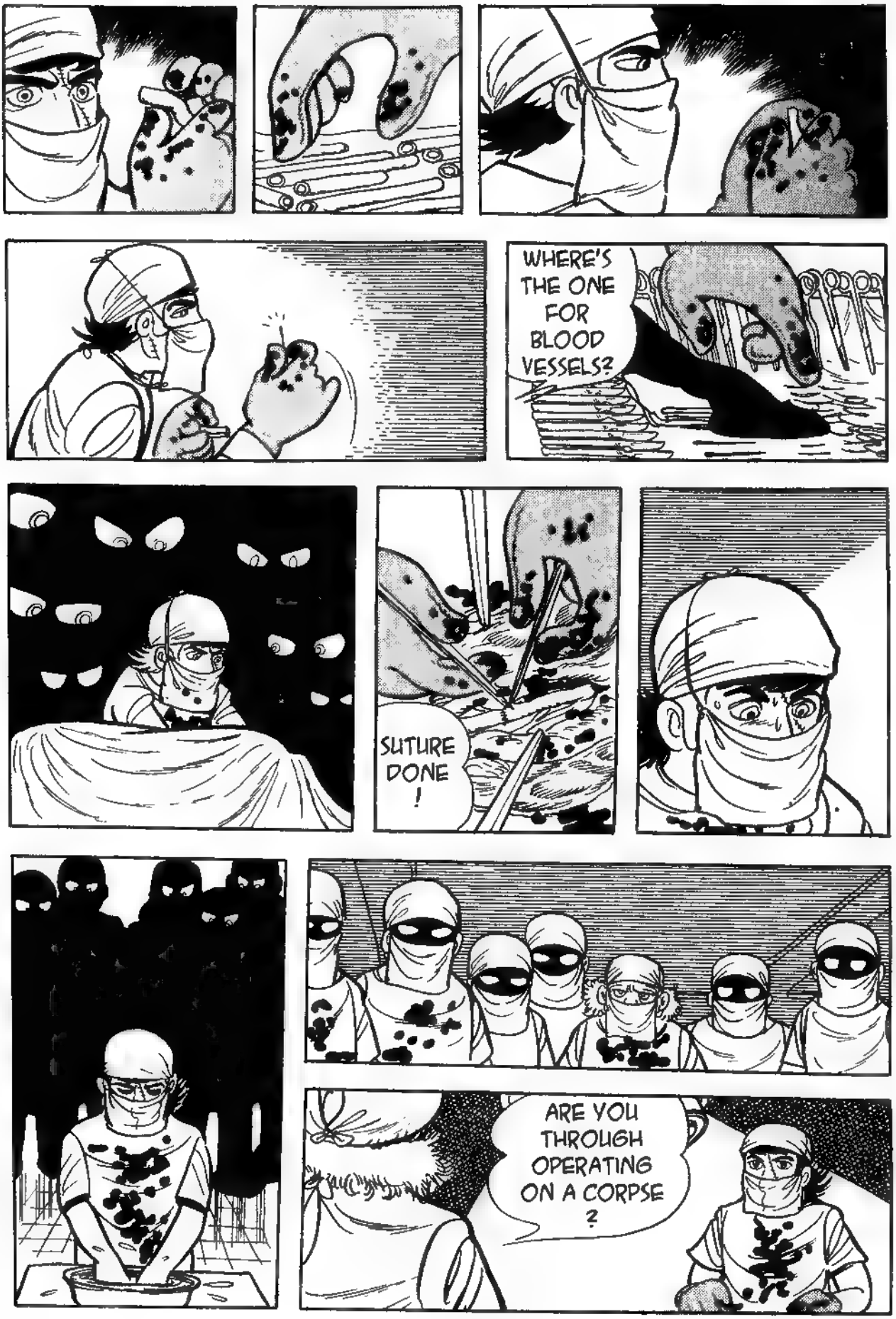
I'VE REMOVED IT.
THAT'S STRANGE.
DOCTOR SAKAKIBARA, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
LET ME BE STRAIGHT. I'M DONE HELPING YOU.
THAT MEANS THE BLOCKAGE ALWAYS OCCURS HERE.
YOU'VE INCISED THE EXACT SAME SECTION.

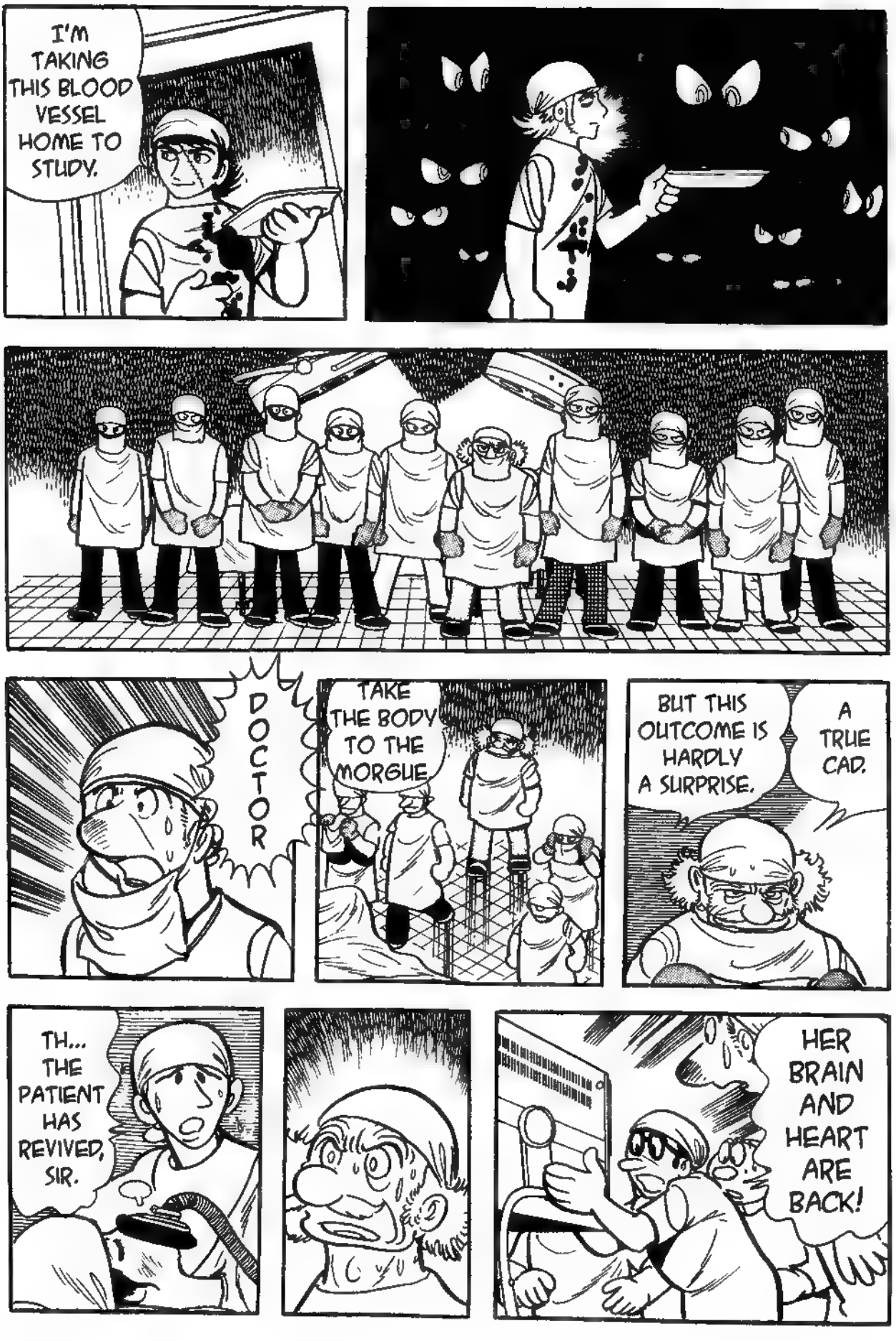
WHY? BECAUSE THE PATIENT IS DEAD!
WHY'S THAT ?
YOU ARE OPERATING UPON A CORPSE !
NO BRAIN WAVES, NO PUPILLARY REFLEX. DON'T YOU SEE?
LOOK! THERE ARE NO VITAL SYMPTOMS.
I AM HOPING THAT YOU'LL CEASE THIS POINTLESS CHARADE SOON.
IF WE QUIT NOW, IT WON'T BE JUST APPARENT!
THIS IS JUST A STATE OF APPARENT DEATH !
WE HAVE TO RID HER OF HER SPOOKY EMBOLIC SYMPTOMS, ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WE NEED TO FINISH UP FIRST.

EXIT, NOW.
NO! FIRST, JUST EXIT THIS ROOM!
DOCTOR BLACK JACK, YOUR JOB HERE IS DONE!
THERE'S A SLIGHT HEARTBEAT ...
DOCTOR SAKAKIBARA, THE BRAIN WAVES ARE BACK!
TWITCH ピク
THE PATIENT HAS COME BACK TO LIFE!
I'LL BE DARNED.

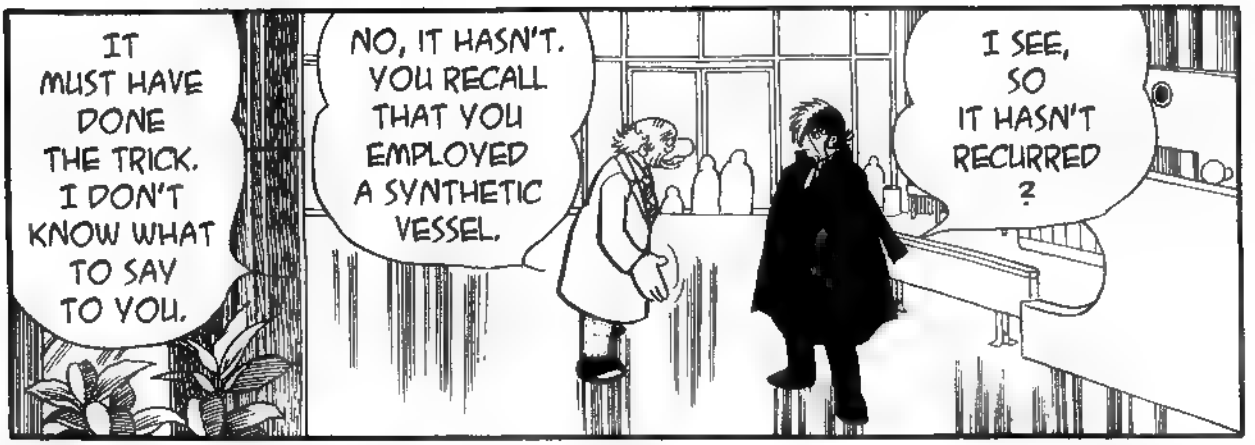
...
CHECK THIS OUT, DOCTOR SAKAKIBARA.
THIS SECTION IS THE PROBLEM.
IT SHOULD OCCUR IN OTHER PLACES TOO.
THIS IS WHERE YOU OPERATED BEFORE.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE EMBOLISM ALWAYS OCCURS HERE. IF IT WERE HER CONSTITUTION...
WHERE'S THAT SYN-THETIC VESSEL?
I'M THE LEAD SURGEON.
ARE YOU IN YOUR RIGHT MIND?
WE SHOULD REPLACE IT WITH A SYNTHETIC VESSEL.
I'M GOING TO PRACTICE A LITTLE NONSENSE INSTEAD.
THE SENSIBLE OPERATIONS THAT YOU PERFORMED ENDED IN FAILURE.
CUT OUT A WORKING ORGAN?
THIS IS NON-SENSE.


SHE IS DEAD NOW.
LOSING BRAIN WAVES.
AGAIN?
THE HEART'S STOPPED AGAIN.
IT'LL BE NO USE.
GONE ...
HAND ME A SYNTHETIC VESSEL!
BLACK JACK, THAT'S ENOUGH. DON'T BE A POOR SPORT.
...
NO USE?
THE COMEDY IS OVER.


WHERE'S THE ONE FOR BLOOD VESSELS?
SUTURE DONE !
ARE YOU THROUGH OPERATING ON A CORPSE ?

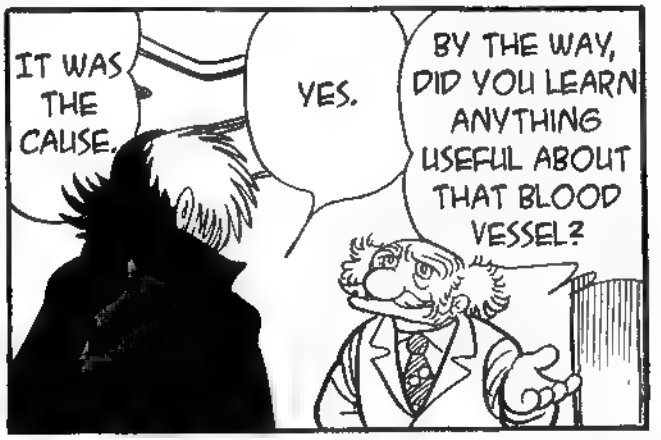

I'M TAKING THIS BLOOD VESSEL HOME TO STUDY.
DOCTOR
TAKE THE BODY TO THE MORGUE
BUT THIS OUTCOME IS HARDLY A SURPRISE.
A TRUE CAD.
TH... THE PATIENT HAS REVIVED, SIR.
HER BRAIN AND HEART ARE BACK!

SUMMON BACK THE DOCTOR.
HOLY COW !
DR. BLACK JACK !
YOU PEOPLE CAN HANDLE THE REST.
PLEASE COME BACK. THE PATIENT'S COME BACK TO LIFE.
CHEERS TO THE PATIENT.
THREE MONTHS LATER

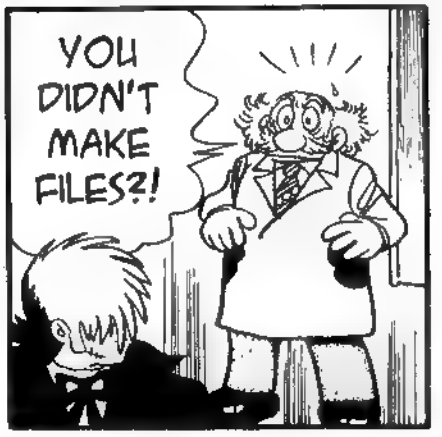

IT MUST HAVE DONE THE TRICK. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO YOU.
NO, IT HASN'T. YOU RECALL THAT YOU EMPLOYED A SYNTHETIC VESSEL.
I SEE, SO IT HASN'T RECURRED ?

I HAVE NONE.

KINDLY SHARE YOUR FILES WITH US. WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT.

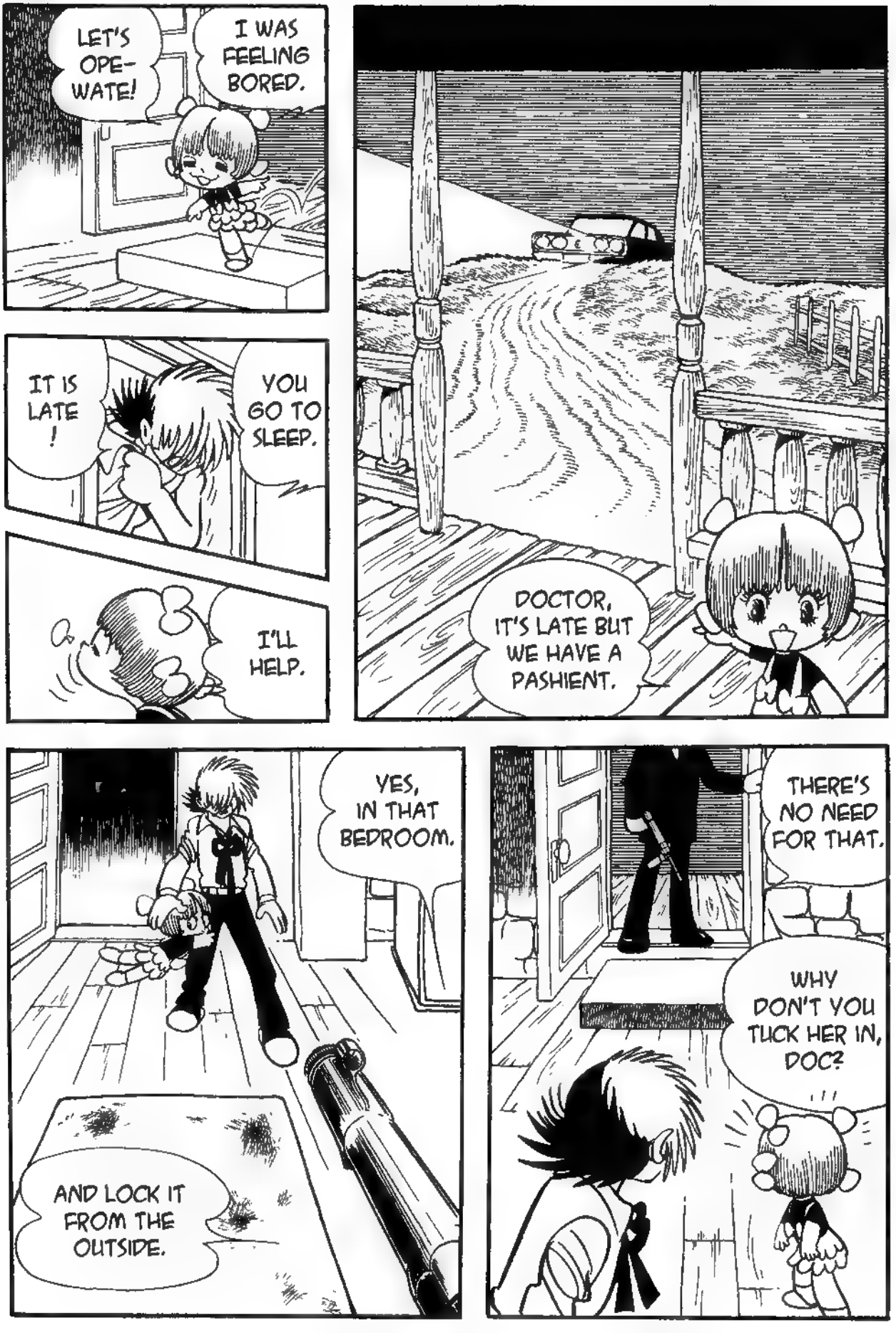

IT WAS THE CAUSE.
YES.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING USEFUL ABOUT THAT BLOOD VESSEL?

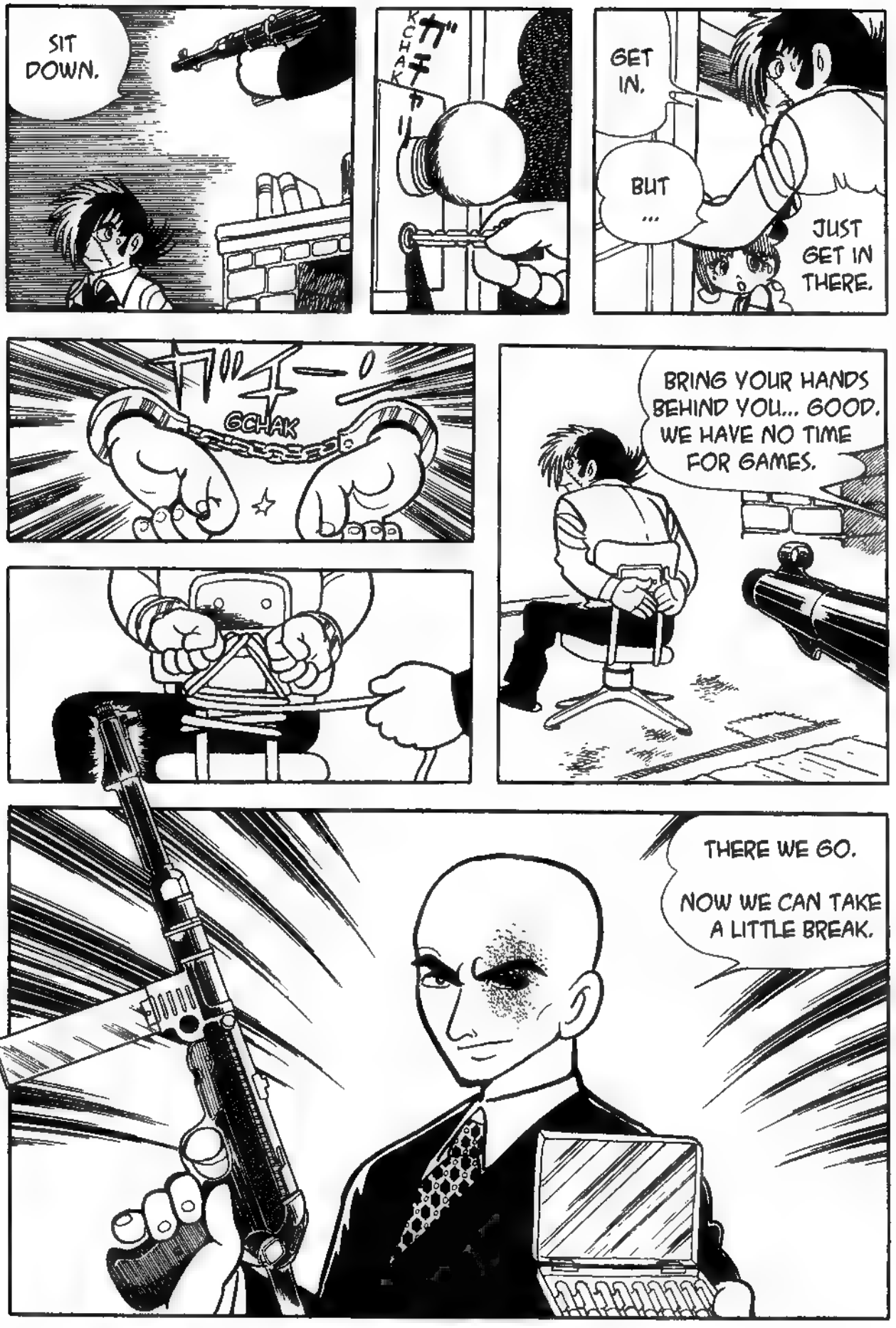
YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT.


YOU DIDN'T MAKE FILES?!

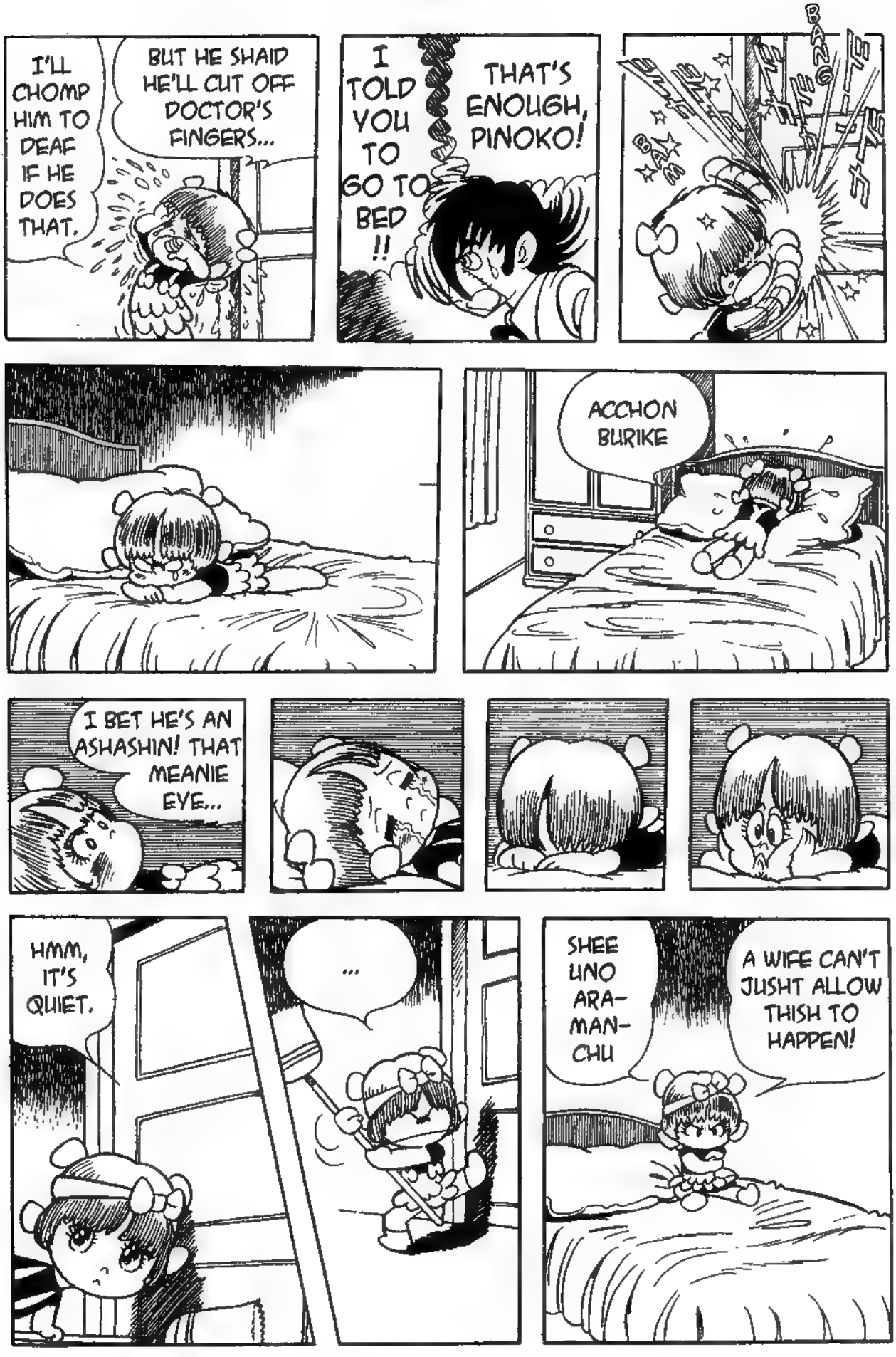
OF A BACK-ALLEY SURGEON ?
A FINE HOSPITAL LIKE THIS ACCEPTING THE FILES...

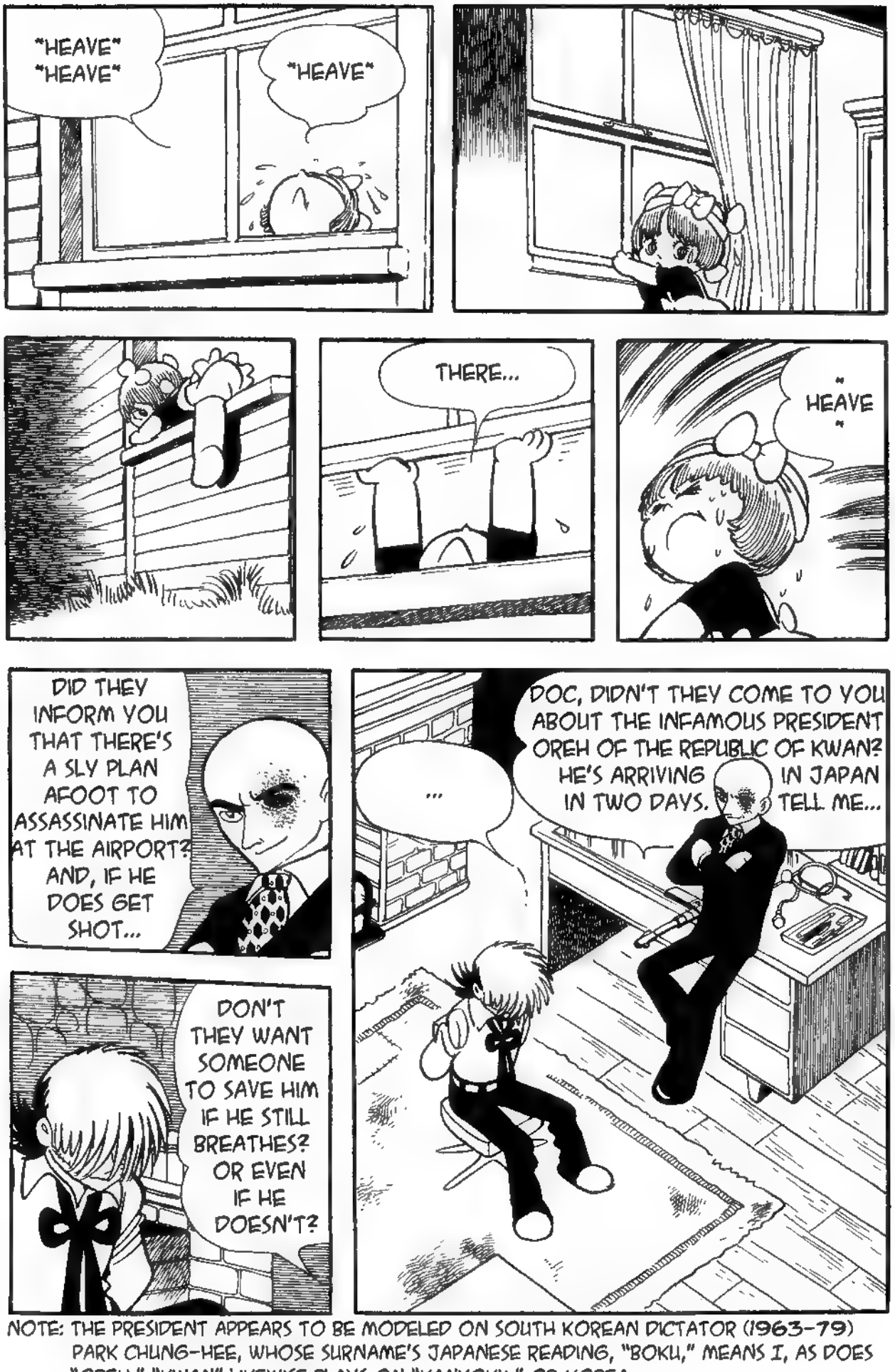
A VISIT FROM A KILLER


LET'S OPE-WATE!
I WAS FEELING BORED.
IT IS LATE !
YOU GO TO SLEEP.
I'LL HELP.
DOCTOR, IT'S LATE BUT WE HAVE A PASHIENT.
YES, IN THAT BEDROOM.
AND LOCK IT FROM THE OUTSIDE.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU TUCK HER IN, DOC?


SIT DOWN.
KCHAK
ガチャリ
GET IN.
BUT ...
JUST GET IN THERE.
GCHAK
BRING YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOU... GOOD. WE HAVE NO TIME FOR GAMES.
THERE WE GO.
NOW WE CAN TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.

HOWEVER...
DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR LIFE.
YOU WON'T WIELD A SCALPEL AGAIN.
I'LL WASTE, OH, FOUR OR FIVE OF YOUR FINGERS MAYBE.
DAILY TASKS MIGHT BECOME A CHORE.
BUT YOU WON'T EVER PRACTICE AGAIN.
I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS,
JUST THE OBLIGATIONS OF OUR FLEETING WORLD.
I'VE NONE.
WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH ME?
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO PUT HOLES IN EITHER.
DOCTOR, TELL HER TO STOP BANGING ON THE DOOR.
STOP THAT !

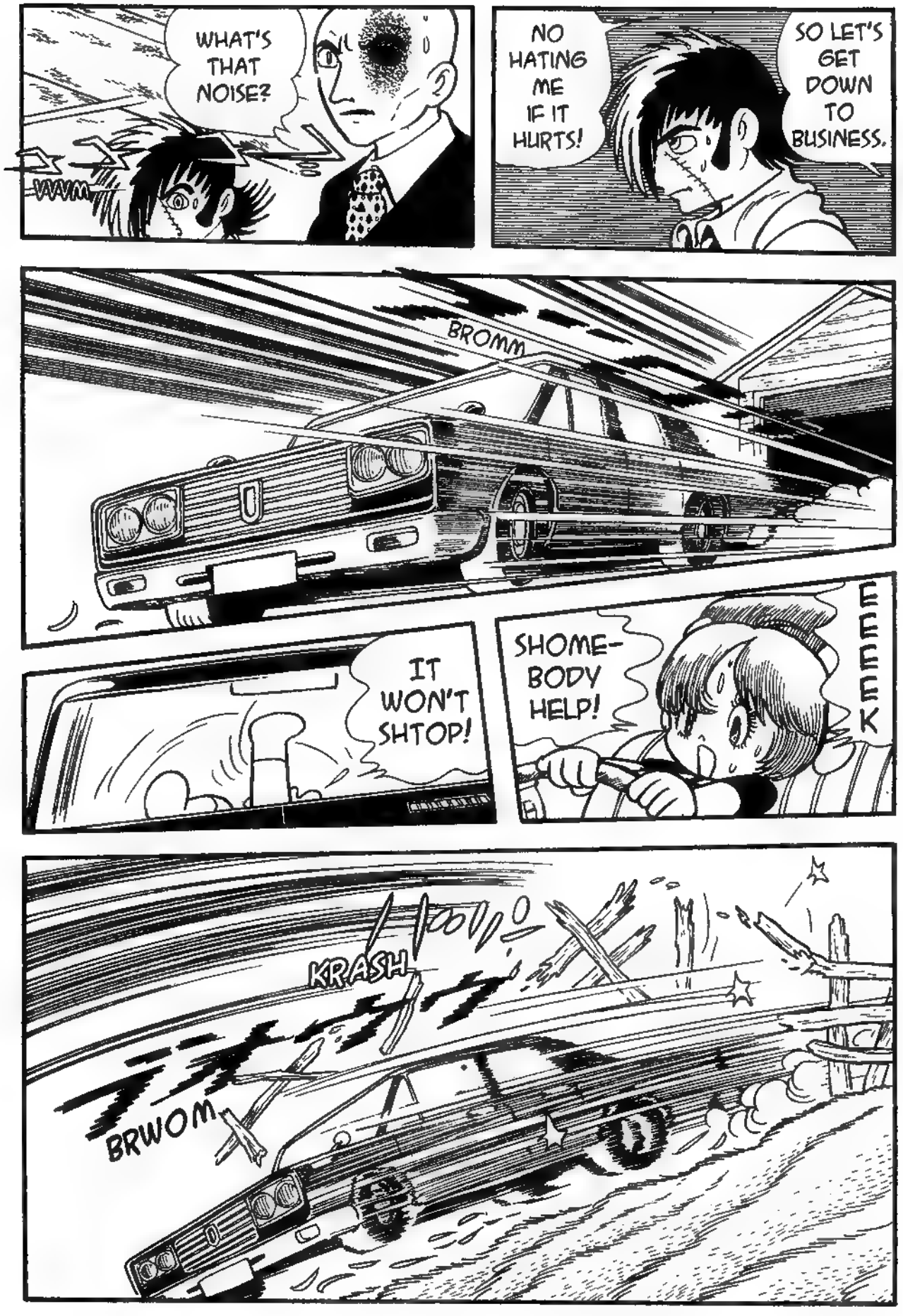

I'LL CHOMP HIM TO DEAF IF HE DOES THAT.
BUT HE SHAID HE'LL CUT OFF DOCTOR'S FINGERS...
I TOLD YOU TO GO TO BED !!
THAT'S ENOUGH, PINOKO!
BAZO
ACCHON BURIKE
I BET HE'S AN ASHASHIN! THAT MEANIE EYE...
HMM, IT'S QUIET.
...
SHEE UNO ARA-MAN-CHU
A WIFE CAN'T JUSHT ALLOW THISH TO HAPPEN!

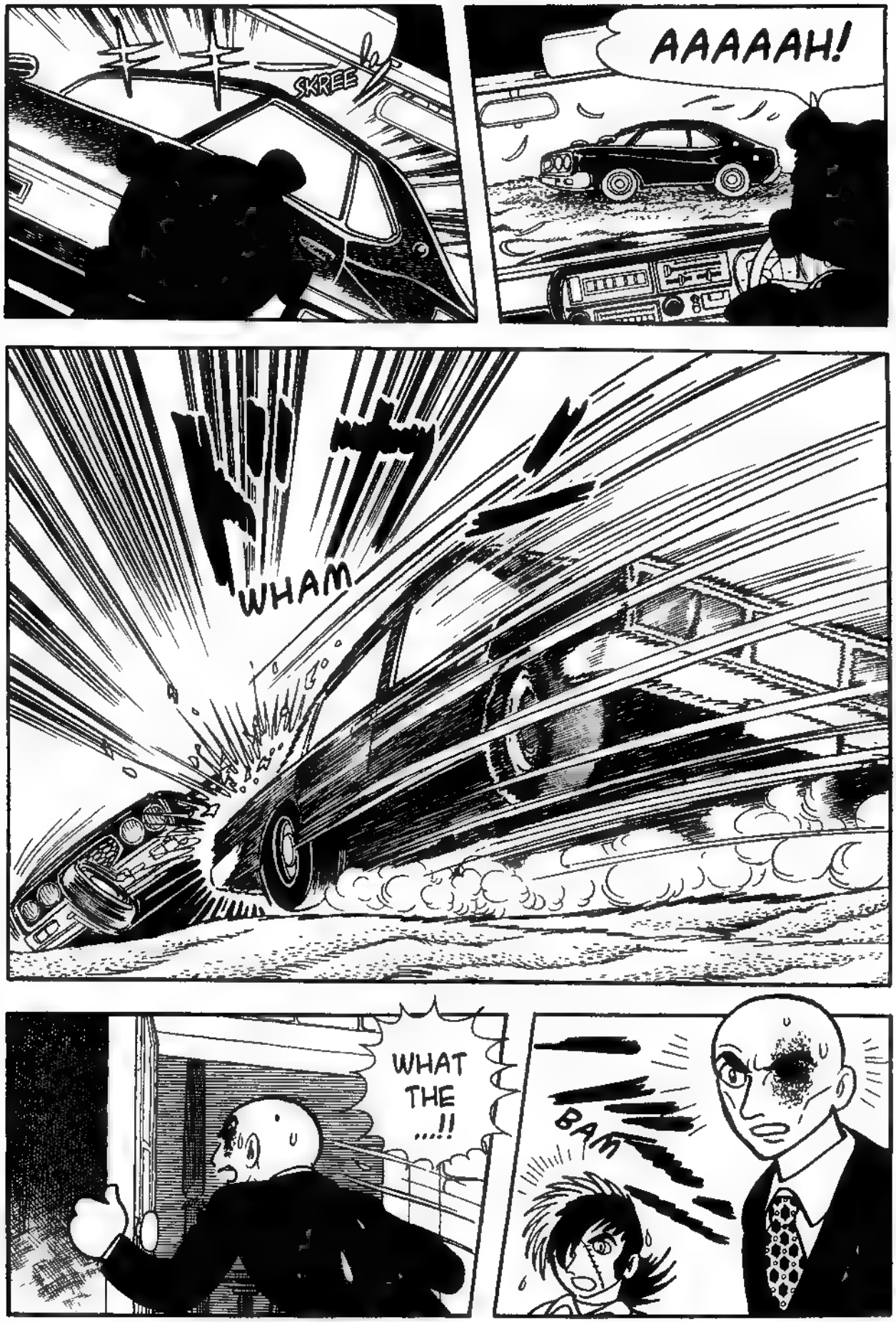

"HEAVE"
"HEAVE"
"HEAVE"
THERE...
"HEAVE"
DID THEY INFORM YOU THAT THERE'S A SLY PLAN AFOOT TO ASSASSINATE HIM AT THE AIRPORT? AND, IF HE DOES GET SHOT...
DON'T THEY WANT SOMEONE TO SAVE HIM IF HE STILL BREATHES? OR EVEN IF HE DOESN'T?
...
DOC, DIDN'T THEY COME TO YOU ABOUT THE INFAMOUS PRESIDENT OREH OF THE REPUBLIC OF KWAN? HE'S ARRIVING IN JAPAN IN TWO DAYS. TELL ME...

NOTE: THE PRESIDENT APPEARS TO BE MODELED ON SOUTH KOREAN DICTATOR (1963–79) PARK CHUNG-HEE, WHOSE SURNAME'S JAPANESE READING, "BOKU," MEANS I, AS DOES "OREH." "KWAN" LIKEWISE PLAYS ON "KANKOKU," OR KOREA.

WITH A SUITCASE FULL OF CASH?
DIDN'T A PRESIDENTIAL AIDE COME IN SECRET TO ASK YOU THIS
THE MIRACLE-WORKING DOCTOR BLACK JACK MIGHT VERY WELL BE ABLE TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE. IN FACT, HE HAS REVIVED DEAD FOLKS IN THE PAST.
WHY DO YOU KNOW THIS?
YOU'LL STAY CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT AT THE AIRPORT DAY AFTER TOMORROW. IF THE SNIPER CONNECTS, YOU'LL GET BUSY.
ISN'T THAT SO?
AND YOU TOLD THEM YOU'LL DO IT.
THE OPPOSITION IN THE REPUBLIC IS SHELLING OUT A HELL OF A LOT OF CASH FOR THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE.
WELL, I HAPPEN TO BE THAT ASSASSIN.
YOU WON'T WORK ANY TEDIOUS MIRACLES.
HA HA HA
KILLING YOU'D BE GOING TOO FAR. IF I JUST BLAST AWAY YOUR FINGERS...
YOU, DOC, ARE AN OBSTACLE!

PINOKO IS ALWAYS WATCHING DOCTOR DWIVE THIS FING. PINOKO CAN TOO.
NEED TO CALL THE POLISHE...
BRRM
TUWN ON THE ENGINE...
UH
UHM
YOU SAVE THEM FOR BUCKS. I KILL THEM. I'M FIGURING NO AMOUNT OF TALK WILL SETTLE THAT DIFFERENCE. AM I RIGHT, BOSS?
ONLY THING IS...
YOU DO IT FOR THE MONEY, AND SO DO I.
WE'RE ALIKE, YOU AND I.


WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
WAM
NO HATING ME IF IT HURTS!
SO LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
BROMM
IT WON'T SHTOP!
SHOME-BODY HELP!
EEEEK
KRASH
BRWOM

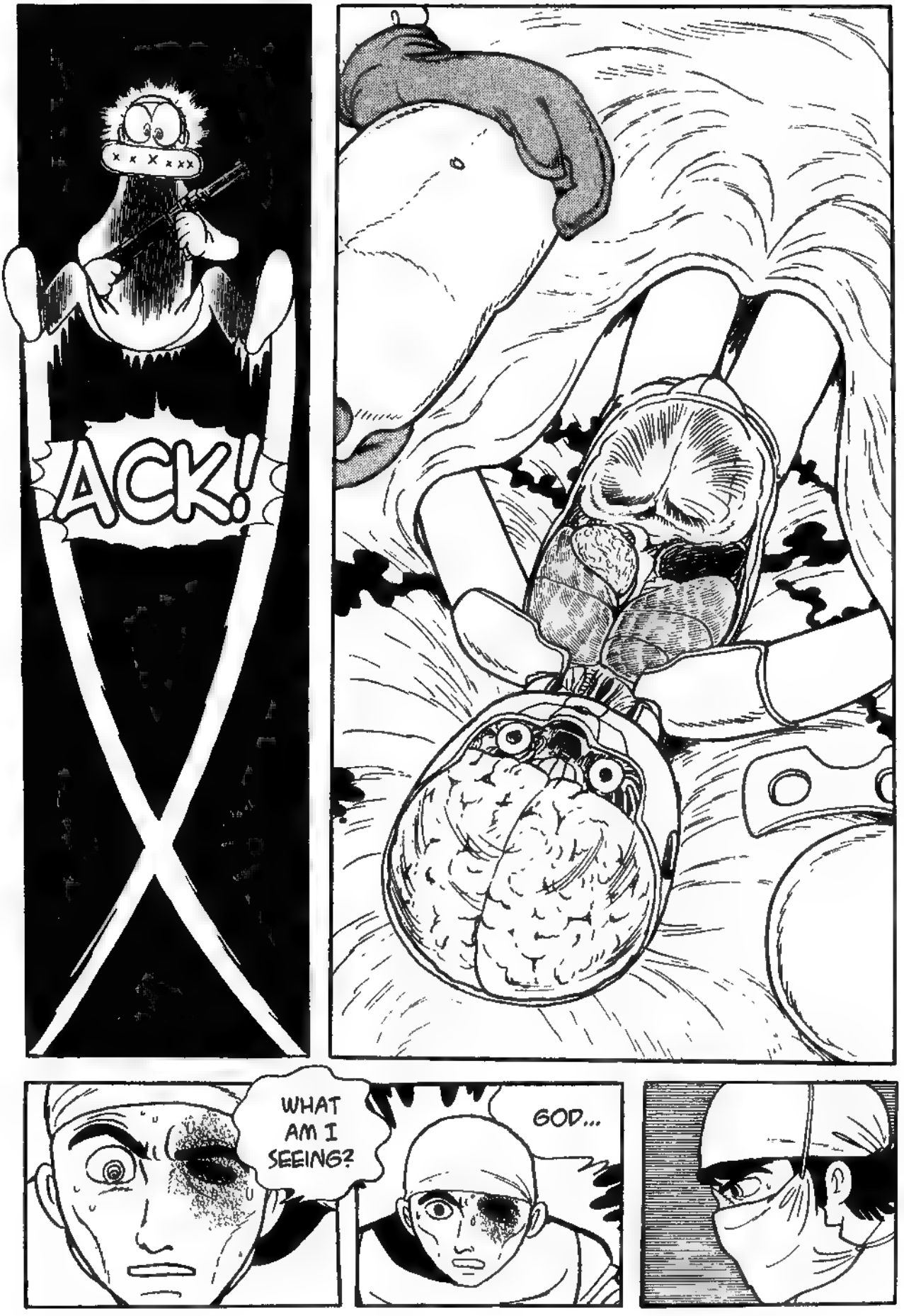

SKREE
AAAAAH!
WHAM
WHAT THE ...!!
BAM

PINOKO, YOU FOOL... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TRY ANYTHING ...
LAY HER ON THE O.R. BED. I'M TREATING HER RIGHT AWAY.
NOT SO SOON.
YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU?
IT WAS THE KID... SHE'S NEARLY DEAD.
PINOKO!!

JUST LAY HER ON THE BED! SHE'LL GET AN AIR EMBOLISM IF YOU DANGLE HER LIKE THAT.
HOW'S IT WORTH UNTYING YOUR HANDS?
WHY SHOULD I CARE?
WHY LET HER DIE?
SHE HAS NO PART IN THIS.
GIVE ME TIME. ONLY AS MUCH I NEED TO TREAT HER. WHEN I'M DONE I'LL DO AS YOU SAY.
FINE, STOP YELLING.
...
IN NAME ONLY?
IT DOESN'T HURT YOUR PRIDE TO KILL WHEN YOU DON'T NEED TO? OR ARE YOU A PRO...
DUNNO ABOUT THAT.
OKAY, TREAT HER.
IF YOU TRY ANY-THING FUNNY, YOU'LL LOSE MORE THAN JUST YOUR FINGERS.

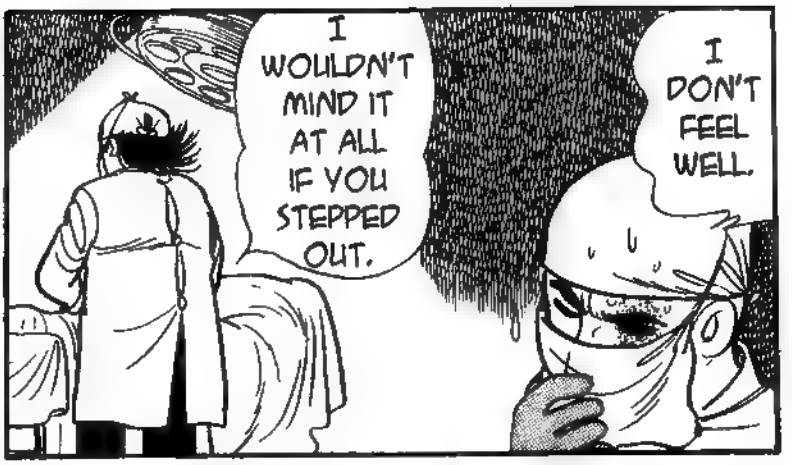
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR.
WHAT, YOU WANT A KNIFE?
IF I DON'T OPERATE, SHE'LL DIE!
BOTH HER SKULL AND CHEST ARE DEPRESSED. HER ORGANS MUST BE RUPTURED.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
HOW?
IF YOU WANT TO STAY IN HERE, YOU'LL HAVE TO CHANGE OUT OF THOSE!
JUST DON'T DALLY.
ALL RIGHT. I SUPPOSE YOU CAN'T OPERATE WITHOUT A SCALPEL.

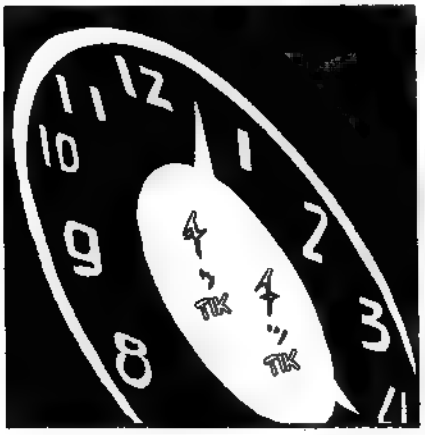
WHAT IF I SAID NO?
THEN I CAN'T START.
YOU'LL OBEY MY ORDERS WHILE YOU'RE IN HERE.
JUST GET STARTED!
YOU DOCTORS ARE A NERVOUS BUNCH.
NOT THAT YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY BROUGHT IN GERMS.
THERE'S A ROBE IN THE CLOSET. WEAR A CAP, TOO. AND A MASK.
DAMN YOU ...
CAN YOU SAVE HER?
I CAN'T TELL YET!

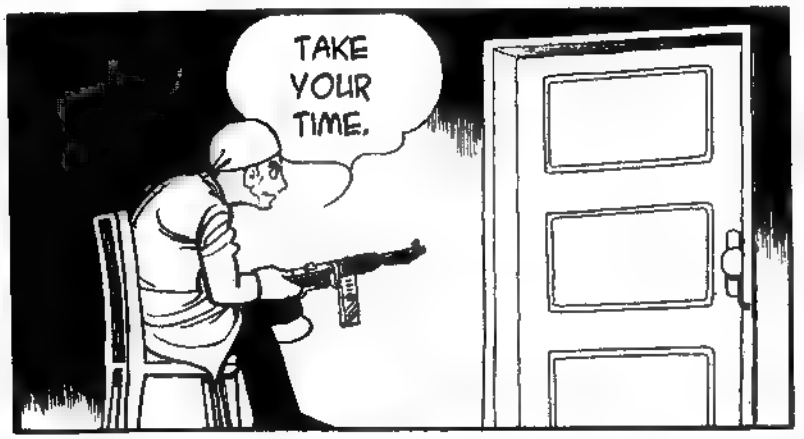

ACK!
WHAT AM I SEEING?
GOD...

COME TAKE A LOOK.
YOU LIE. SHE'S SOME KIND OF DOLL.
YEAH.
IS SHE HUMAN?
SEE, THIS IS HER HEART. ISN'T IT BEATING?
OOPS... WHERE'S YOUR MASK?
...
AH... WHAT A RELIEF. HER ORGANS ARE PRETTY MUCH INTACT...
SHE WAS DE-FORMED BUT I FIXED HER UP.
HOW CAN THIS BE?
AND YET, SHE IS ALIVE AND HUMAN.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

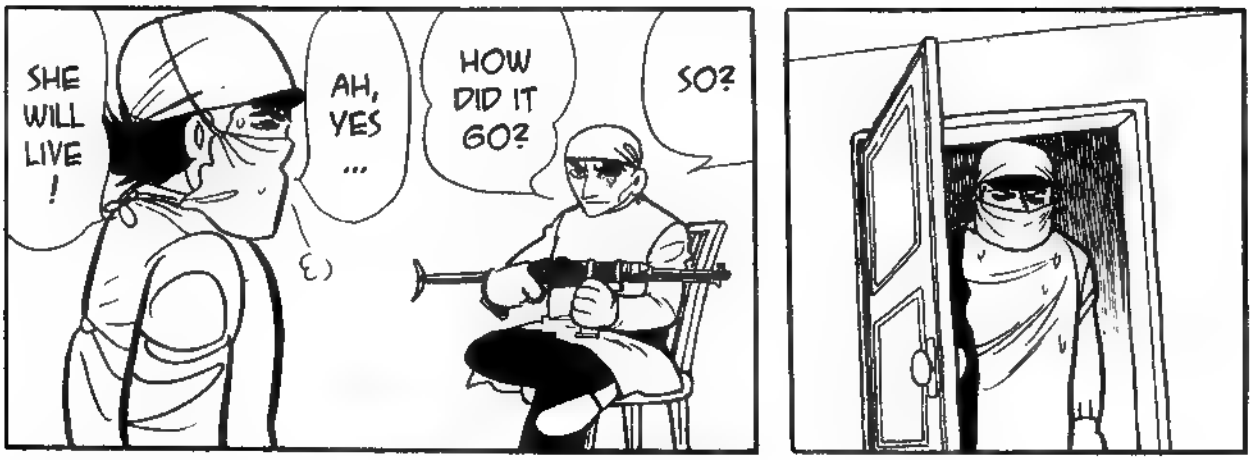
YOU WIN... THAT SHOCKED THE HELL OUT OF ME.

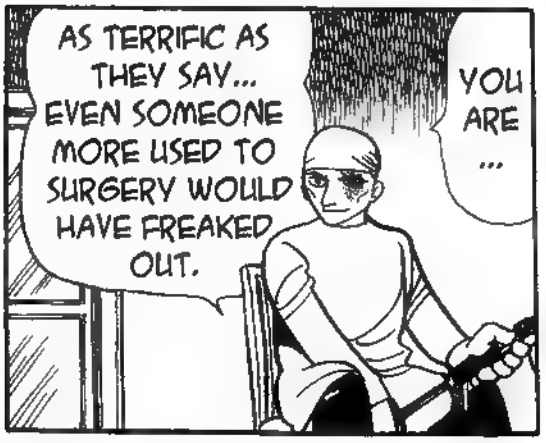

I WOULDN'T MIND IT AT ALL IF YOU STEPPED OUT.
I DON'T FEEL WELL.


TIK
TIK

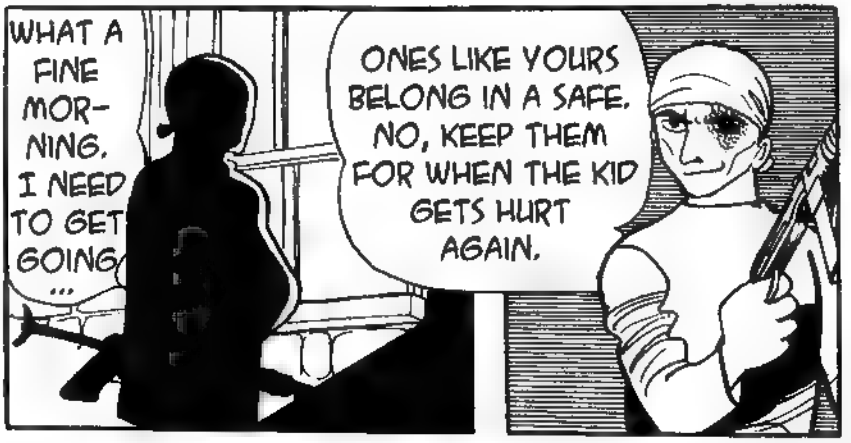

TAKE YOUR TIME.

JOLT
KABUKX

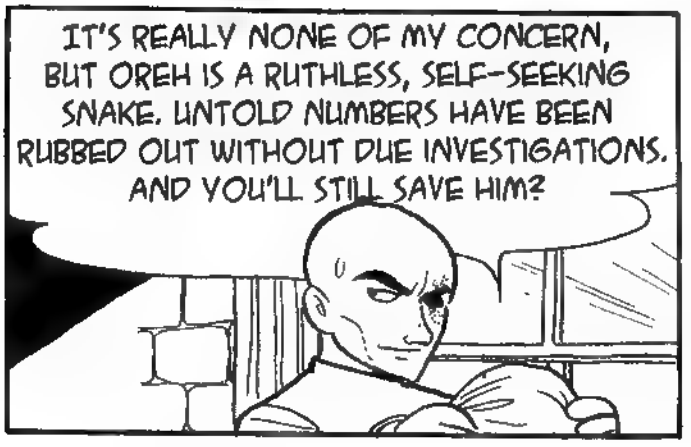

SHE WILL LIVE!
AH, YES...
HOW DID IT GO?
SO?


AS TERRIFIC AS THEY SAY... EVEN SOMEONE MORE USED TO SURGERY WOULD HAVE FREAKED OUT.
YOU ARE...

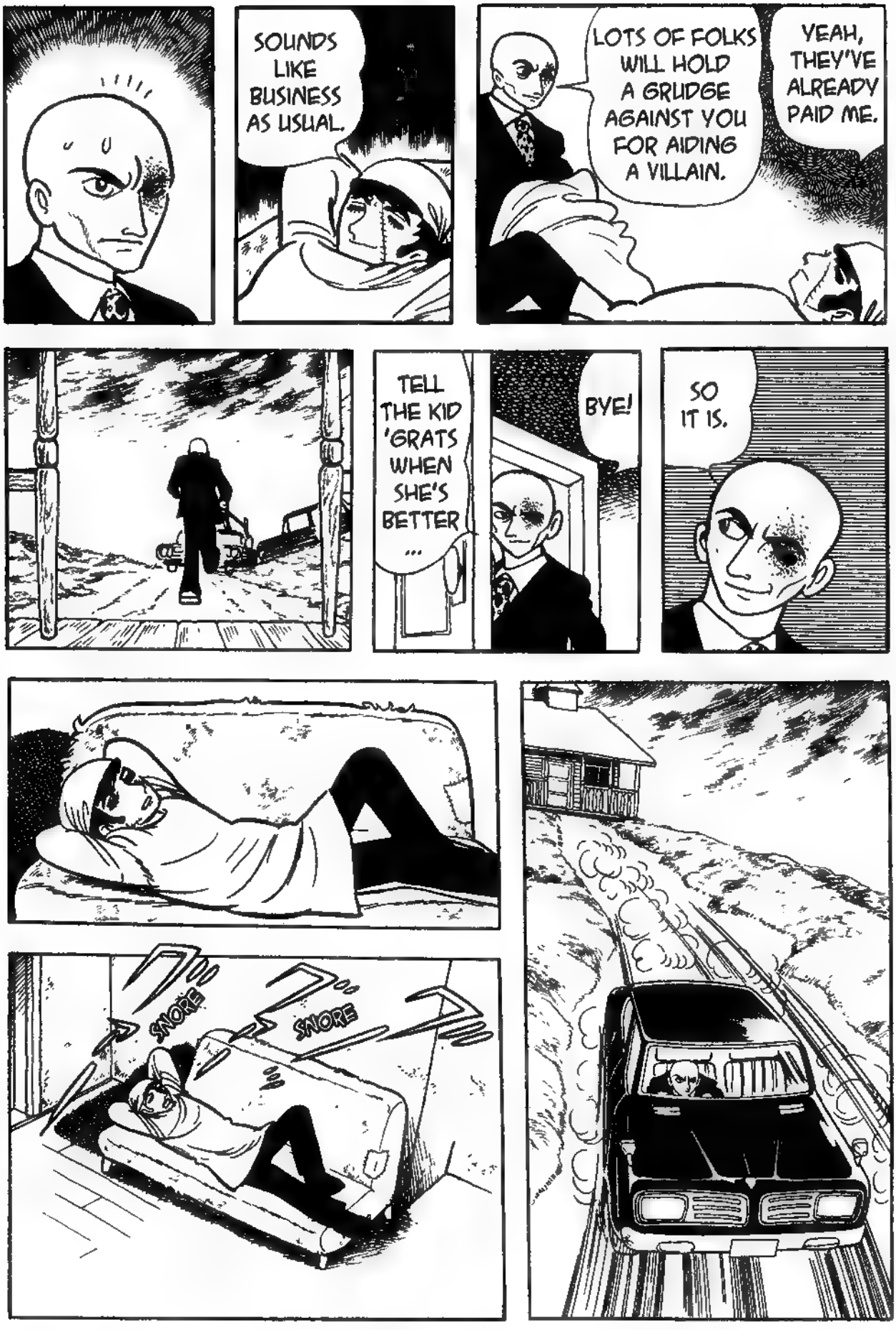
SLUMP
ドタリ

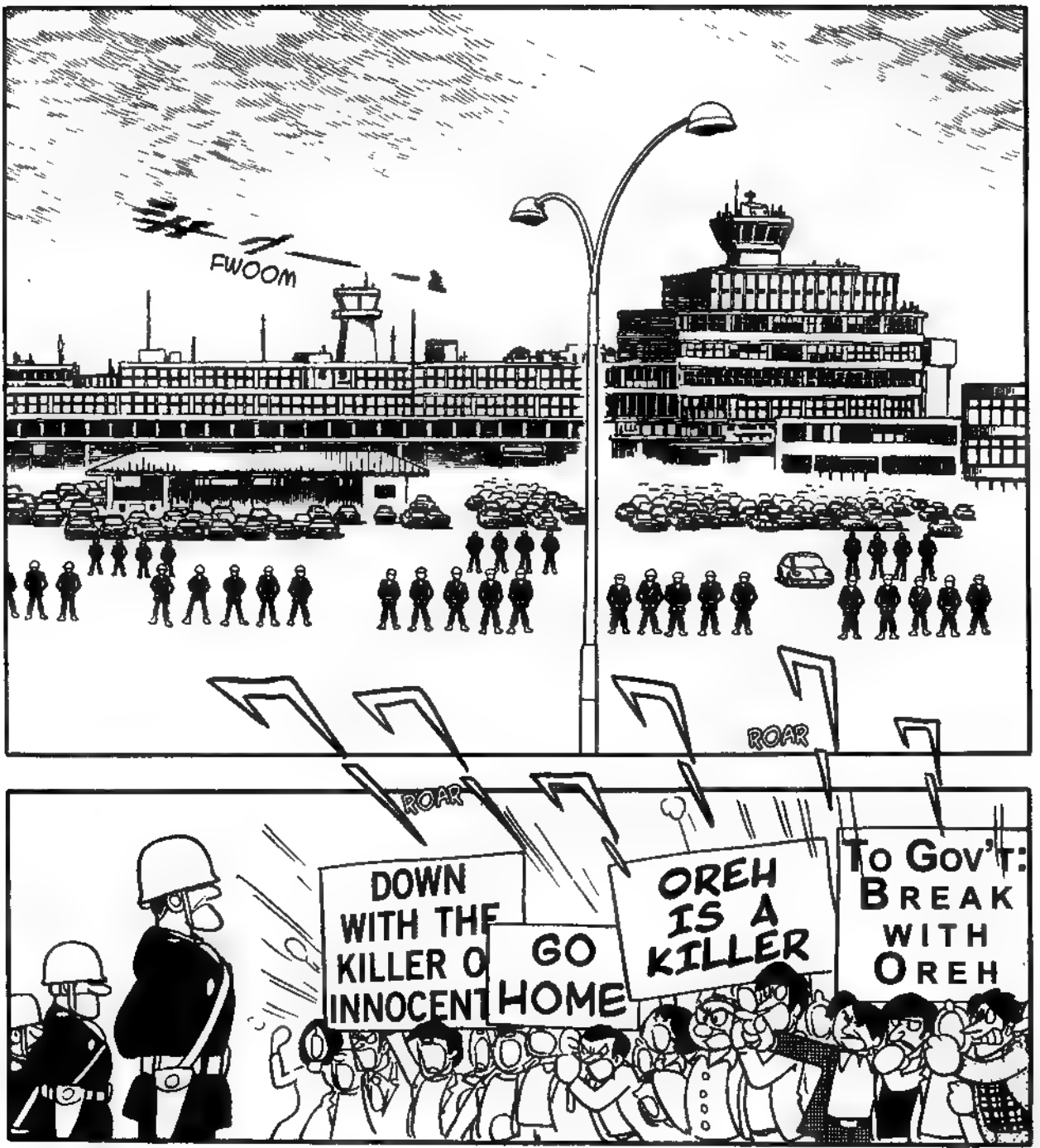

WHAT A FINE MORNING. I NEED TO GET GOING...
ONES LIKE YOURS BELONG IN A SAFE. NO, KEEP THEM FOR WHEN THE KID GETS HURT AGAIN.

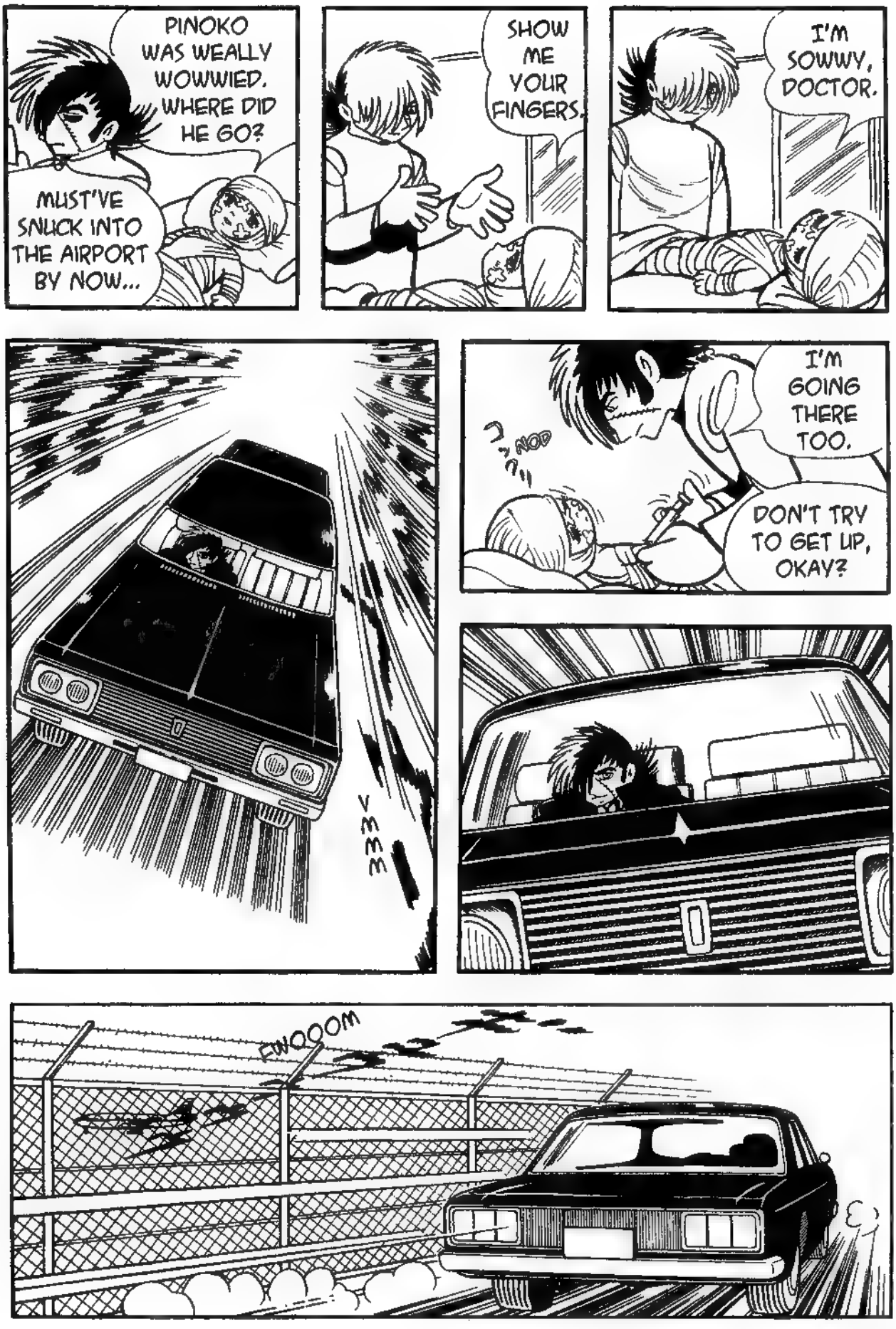
CUT IT OUT. SHOOT OFF MY FINGERS OR WHATEVER.

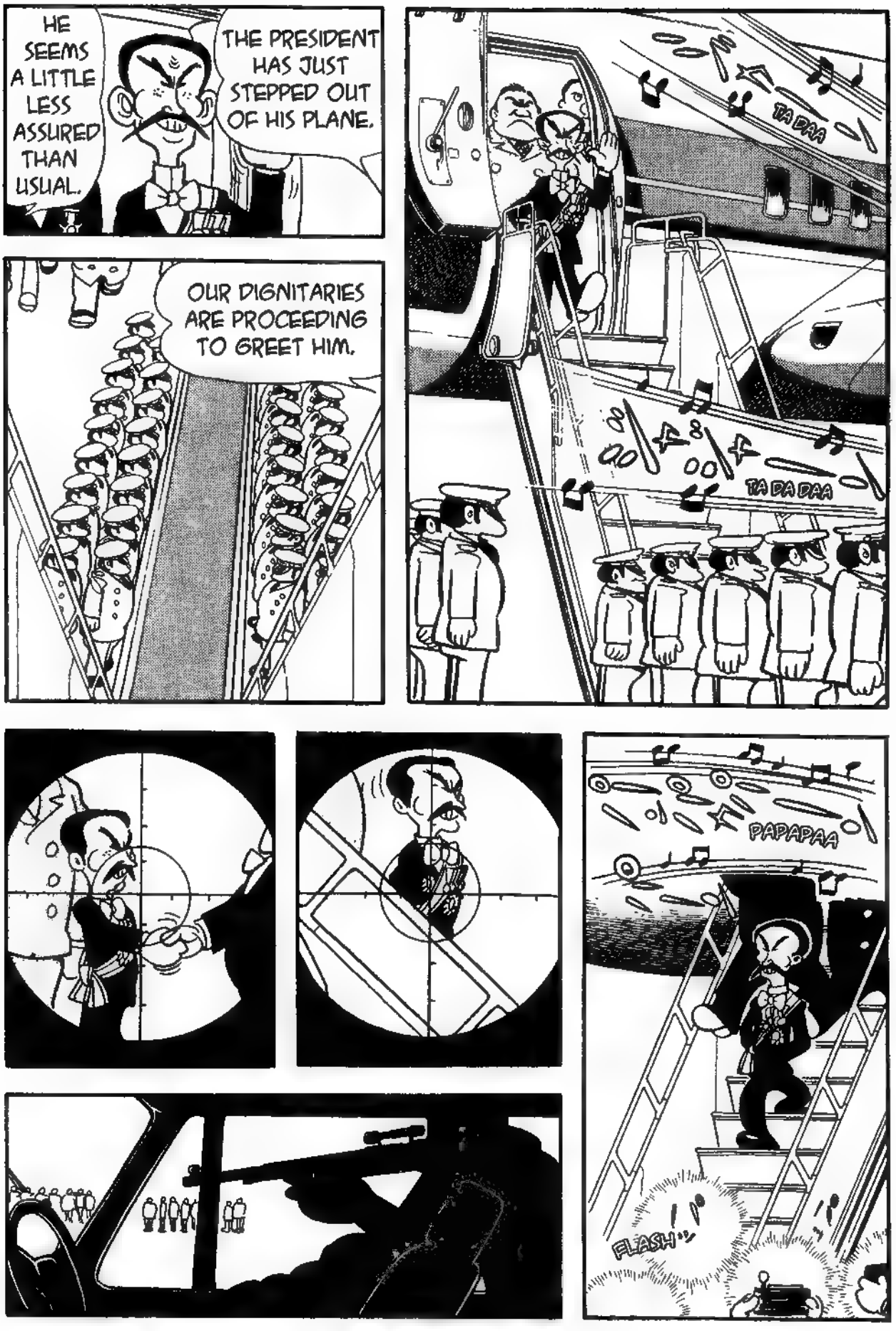

IT'S REALLY NONE OF MY CONCERN, BUT OREH IS A RUTHLESS, SELF-SEEKING SNAKE. UNTOLD NUMBERS HAVE BEEN RUBBED OUT WITHOUT DUE INVESTIGATIONS. AND YOU'LL STILL SAVE HIM?

I MADE A DEAL, YES.
LET ME ASK AGAIN. WILL YOU OPERATE ON OREH?


SOUNDS LIKE BUSINESS AS USUAL.
LOTS OF FOLKS WILL HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU FOR AIDING A VILLAIN.
YEAH, THEY'VE ALREADY PAID ME.
TELL THE KID 'GRATS WHEN SHE'S BETTER ...
BYE!
SO IT IS.
SNORE
SNORE

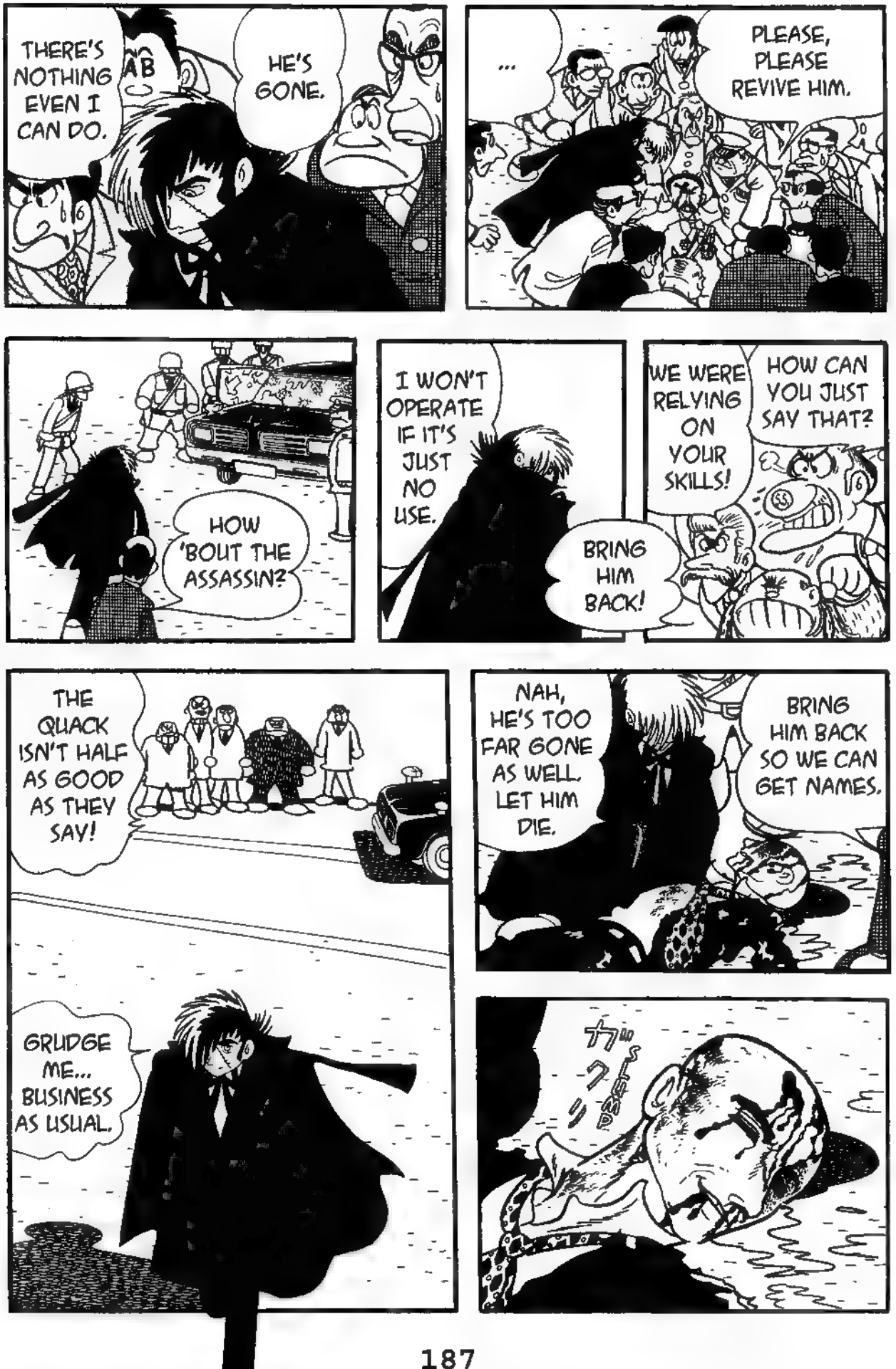

FWOOM
ROAR
ROAR
DOWN WITH THE KILLER O INNOCENT
GO HOME
OREH IS A KILLER
TO GOV'T: BREAK WITH OREH
THE GOV'T HAS SENT IN 300 SECRET SERVICEMEN TO GUARD AGAINST RADICAL ELEMENTS.
THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE IS NOW ABOUT TO ARRIVE. THE AIRPORT IS UNDER TIGHT SECURITY.


PINOKO WAS WEALLY WOWWIED. WHERE DID HE GO?
MUST'VE SNUCK INTO THE AIRPORT BY NOW...
SHOW ME YOUR FINGERS.
I'M SOWWY, DOCTOR.
I'M GOING THERE TOO.
NOD
DON'T TRY TO GET UP, OKAY?
MMM
VROOOM

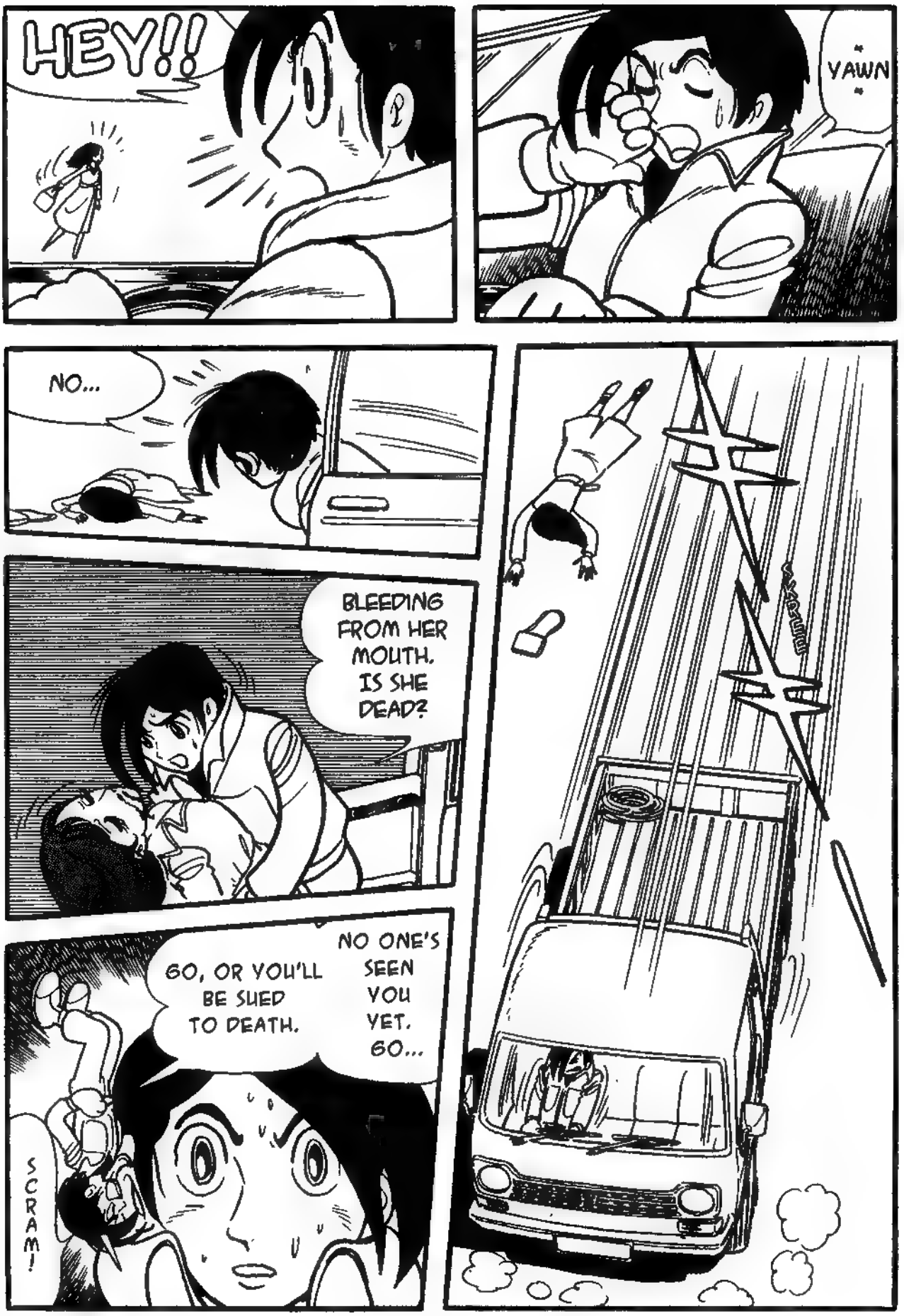

HE SEEMS A LITTLE LESS ASSURED THAN USUAL.
THE PRESIDENT HAS JUST STEPPED OUT OF HIS PLANE.
OUR DIGNITARIES ARE PROCEEDING TO GREET HIM.
TA DAA
TA DA DAA
PAPAPAA
FLASH!!

ROAR
ROAR
WHIZZ
WHIZZ
THAT'S A SECRET SERVICE VEHICLE!
THAT DRIVER ISN'T S.S.!

SCREE
BAMP
SHATTER
DOUBLE TIME! HE'S BEEN SHOT.
AH HA!
I'M BLACK JACK.
WHERE WAS HE TILL NOW?
HE MIGHT SAVE OREH YET.
SKREEE
STOP!!
THE BULLET'S STILL LODGED IN HIS HEAD. THIS IS BEYOND US.
SO?


THERE'S NOTHING EVEN I CAN DO.
HE'S GONE.
...
PLEASE, PLEASE REVIVE HIM.
HOW 'BOUT THE ASSASSIN?
I WON'T OPERATE IF IT'S JUST NO USE.
BRING HIM BACK!
WE WERE RELYING ON YOUR SKILLS!
HOW CAN YOU JUST SAY THAT?
THE QUACK ISN'T HALF AS GOOD AS THEY SAY!
GRUDGE ME... BUSINESS AS USUAL.
NAH, HE'S TOO FAR GONE AS WELL. LET HIM DIE.
BRING HIM BACK SO WE CAN GET NAMES.

ACCIDENT

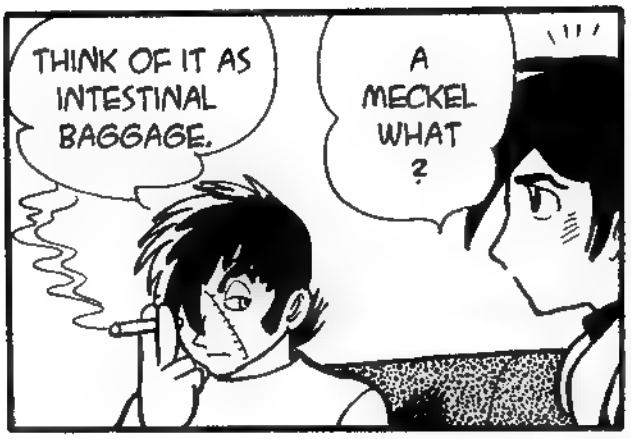

HEY!!
YAWN
NO...
BLEEDING FROM HER MOUTH. IS SHE DEAD?
NO ONE'S SEEN YOU YET. GO...
GO, OR YOU'LL BE SUED TO DEATH.
SCRAM!

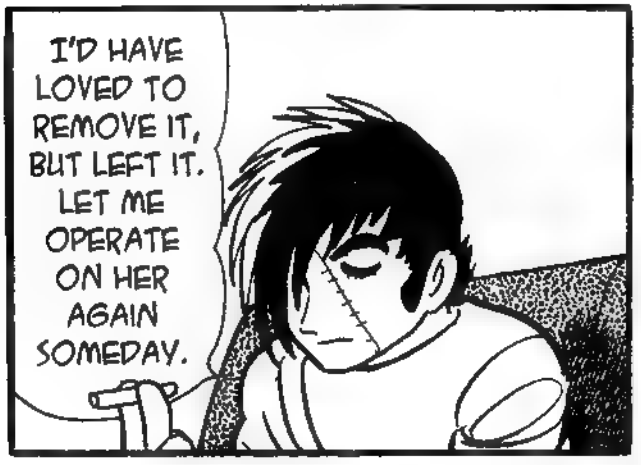
DAMN YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? RUN!
I'VE GOT A PATIENT!!
RGENCY SPITAL
I BEG YOU, MISS... DON'T DIE ON ME.
I HOPE THE BASE OF BRAIN ISN'T FRACTURED. THAT'D BE NASTY.
IT LOOKS TO BE FINE ...
CALM DOWN. WE NEED TO TAKE X-RAYS OF HER FRACTURES FIRST.
WILL SHE BE OK? CAN YOU HEAL HER? TELL ME!
HAZAMA!
YOU'LL HANDLE THIS ONE.

YOU DON'T LIKE THAT?
WAIT, YOU'RE GONNA OPERATE?
SHE WILL NEED AN OP.
AND SOME DAMAGE AT THE ILEUM.
BUT... FOUR FRACTURES, A SEVERED MUSCLE ...INTERNAL BLEEDING
EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR HANDS FULL. TRUST ME, HE'LL DO FINE.
WELL, ISN'T THERE SOMEONE A LITTLE, Y'KNOW, OLDER?
KO-CHER
BONE SCALPEL
THERE'S INTERNAL BLEEDING UNDER THIS.

IT'S A MECKEL'S DIVERTI-CULUM!
HM?
YOU SEE THIS ?!
THIS TIME WE'LL LEAVE IT BE.
THAT'D BE A WHOLE NEW OP.
TSK...
UH-OH, IT CONTAINS A HEMATOMA. WE'LL PERFORM A CENTESIS,
BUT WE CAN'T REMOVE IT RIGHT NOW.
PHEW
SHE'LL BE FINE.

NOTE: CENTESIS = PUNCTURING WITH A HOLLOW NEEDLE TO DRAW OUT FLUID


THINK OF IT AS INTESTINAL BAGGAGE.
A MECKEL WHAT ?


I'D HAVE LOVED TO REMOVE IT, BUT LEFT IT. LET ME OPERATE ON HER AGAIN SOMEDAY.

YES... BUT THERE'S A BIT OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD FOR A YOUNG DOCTOR! ARE YOU SURE SHE'S HEALED?
SHE HAS A MECKEL'S DIVERTI-CULUM.

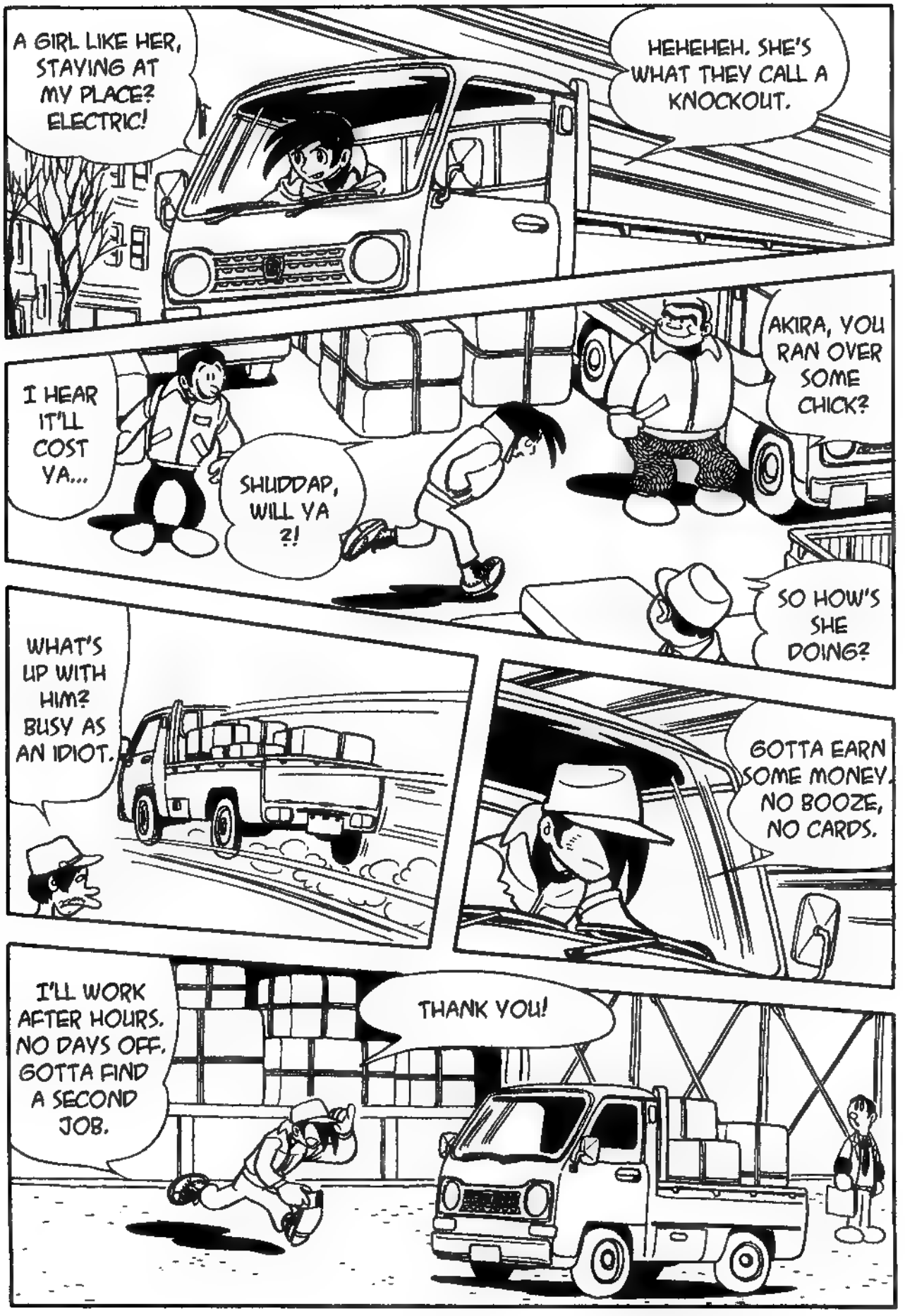
I DON'T REMEMBER...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

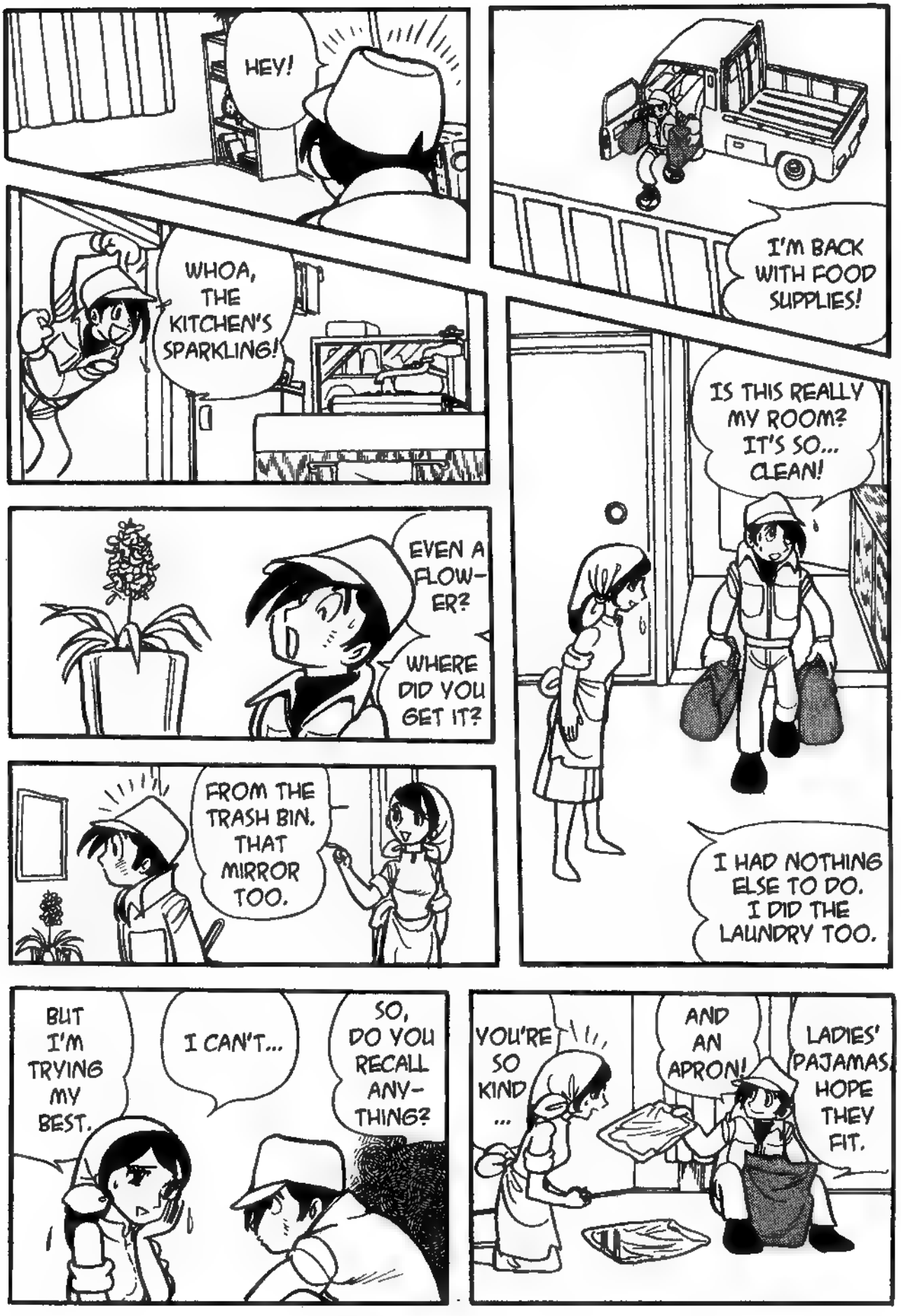
AMNESIA TEMPORARY
RATS.

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ...
FORGIVE ME, MISS. I'M VERY SORRY.
UHM ...

ENOUGH, RUN AWAY. NO GOOD WILL COME OF GETTING TANGLED UP IN THIS.
IT'S QUITE COMMON.
SO SHE ISN'T HEALED AFTER ALL?
MEMORY LOSS DUE TO SHOCK. DON'T WORRY, IT'LL ALL COME BACK SOON.
NOW WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? YOU GOT ANY MONEY? SPLIT!!
FIGURES
RECESSION TRANSPORTS
WHAT? MEDICAL FEES? IT DIDN'T HAPPEN DURING YOUR WORK HOURS; THE COMPANY WON'T SHOULDER THEM.
NONE, I'M AFRAID.
STILL NO CLUE?
WHAT IS SHE TO YOU?!
I'LL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR THIS.
NAME'S AKIRA.
SHUT UP!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOU'RE FROM?
HMPH...
I'M SORRY ...
FOR THE TIME BEING, COME STAY AT MY PLACE.
IN SOME NEWS-PAPER.
MAYBE THERE'S AN AD
YES...
BUT I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT.
I'LL LIVE AT OUR OFFICE FOR SOME TIME.
THIS ROOM WILL BE YOURS.
I'LL WORK MY HEAD OFF TO PAY FOR YOUR HOSPITAL STAY.
I'LL CHECK IN ON YOU.
BUT...
THIS IS IT. A DINGY LITTLE ROOM, I KNOW, BUT STEP RIGHT IN.


A GIRL LIKE HER, STAYING AT MY PLACE? ELECTRIC!
HEHEHEH. SHE'S WHAT THEY CALL A KNOCKOUT.
AKIRA, YOU RAN OVER SOME CHICK?
I HEAR IT'LL COST YA...
SHUDDAP, WILL YA ?!
SO HOW'S SHE DOING?
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM? BUSY AS AN IDIOT.
GOTTA EARN SOME MONEY. NO BOOZE, NO CARDS.
I'LL WORK AFTER HOURS. NO DAYS OFF. GOTTA FIND A SECOND JOB.
THANK YOU!


HEY!
WHOA, THE KITCHEN'S SPARKLING!
I'M BACK WITH FOOD SUPPLIES!
IS THIS REALLY MY ROOM? IT'S SO... CLEAN!
I HAD NOTHING ELSE TO DO. I DID THE LAUNDRY TOO.
EVEN A FLOWER?
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
FROM THE TRASH BIN. THAT MIRROR TOO.
BUT I'M TRYING MY BEST.
I CAN'T...
SO, DO YOU RECALL ANYTHING?
YOU'RE SO KIND...
AND AN APRON!
LADIES' PAJAMAS. HOPE THEY FIT.

HOME COOK-ING!
WOW! NOTHING CAN BEAT
I SEE. I'LL CHECK IN AGAIN TO-MORROW. GOOD NIGHT.
WAIT! YOU SAID YOU BOUGHT SOME FOOD? LET ME COOK DINNER...
NEVER HAD ONE. I WAS AN ORPHAN.
HOW'S YOUR MOTHER?
SEE YOU SOON.
GOOD NIGHT NOW.
I'M SURE YOU DO! I BET YOU WERE A STUDENT!
I... DON'T KNOW.
YOU HAVE PARENTS, I BET.
I GUESS
EVEN A CHUMP LIKE ME FINDS A GIRLFRIEND.
HEHEH...

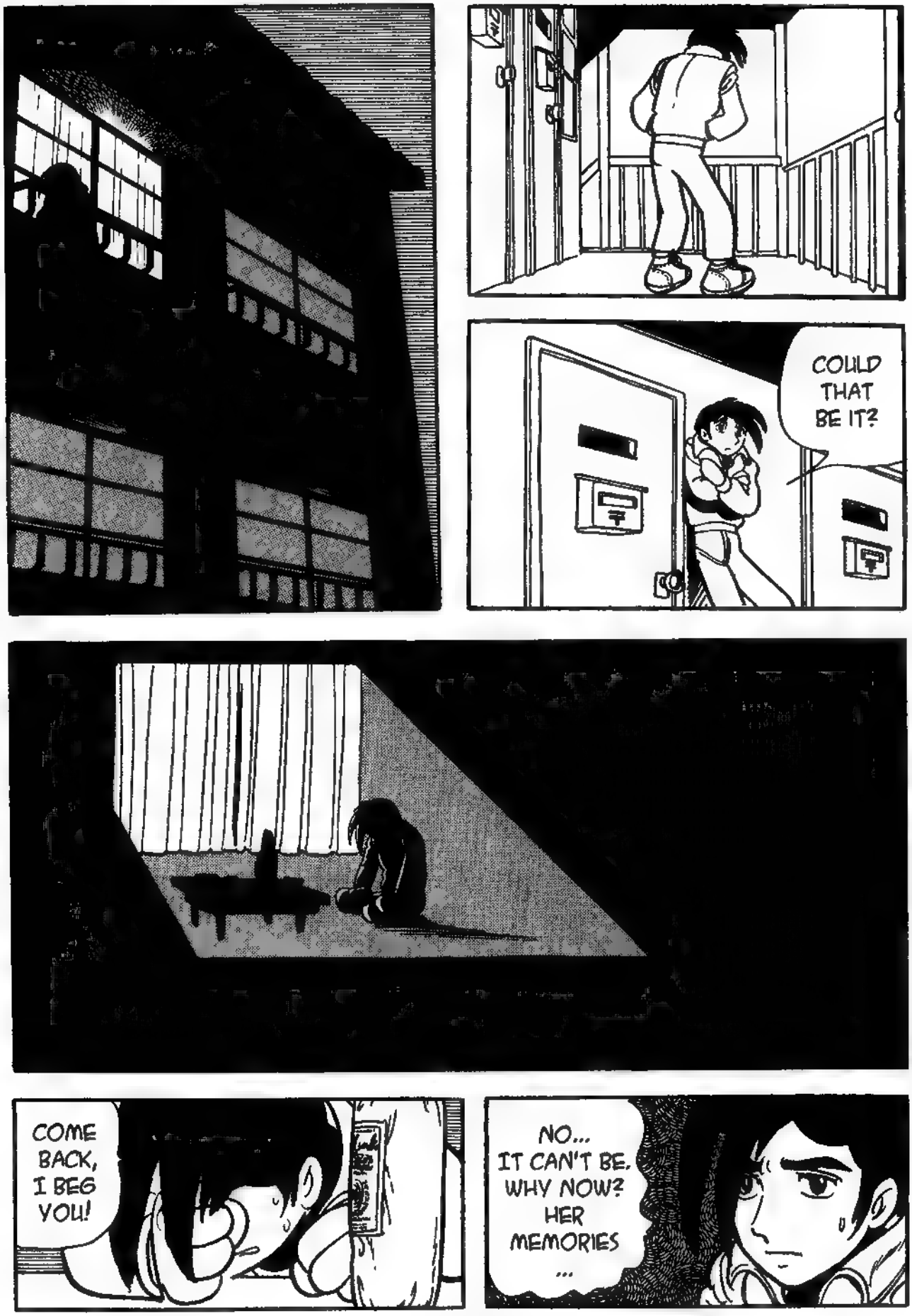
HEH HEH HEH
COME HANG OUT WITH US, MISER!
DIDN'T YOU GET YOUR BONUS?
MEDICAL FEES? NO PROBLEM.
CITY EMERGENC
HEY
I'M ALMOST DONE PAYING OFF THE HOSPITAL STAY.
BUT IT'S YOUR BONUS!
YOUR LIVING EXPENSES AND MEDICAL FEES.
I'LL EARN THE CASH TO RID YOU OF THAT MECKEL THING!
IN TIME
BUT DON'T BE SURPRISED YET!

RICE CAKE SOUP.
HAPPY NEW YEAR, AKIRA.
AND YOU'RE STILL HERE!
WAIT !!
YOU HARDLY KNOW ME!
WHY ARE YOU SO KIND TO ME?
THIS BANK-BOOK'S YOURS.
NEW YEAR'S GIFT!
NOT BAD, EH?
IT'S ALL FOR YOU.
WHY? HEH HEH
FOR YOUR OPERATION. WE PROMISED THE DOCTOR!
sobbing

OUR GRAND PLAN ... HEH
YOU HAVE THE MO-NEY!
THAT YOUNG DOCTOR? HE WANTED TO DO THE OP.
REMEMBER
EVEN RIGHT NOW, YOU COULD SUDDENLY REGAIN YOUR MEMORY
I'M SCARED.
AND GO OUT OF MY LIFE...
AT YER SERVICE.
SHUT UP!!
I DON'T EVER WANT TO LOSE YOU.
I LOVE YOU. YOU'RE ALL I HAVE.
I LOVE YOU TOO!

LET'S STOP TALKING ABOUT IT.
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT. THAT'D BE BETTER.
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I JUST CAN'T RECALL ANY.
MAYBE I DON'T HAVE A PAST.
DON'T SPOIL THE MOOD!
AT YER SERVICE
AT YER SERVICE
SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BE PICKED UP!
WE FIRST MET EXACTLY A YEAR AGO. LET'S HAVE A LITTLE PARTY TONIGHT.
I'LL COOK SOMETHING GOOD!
SHUT UPPP!
WHAT A CLICHÉD SHORTHAND AT YER SERVICE.

WHY AM I HERE?
I NEED TO GO HOME...
WHERE AM I?! WHOSE HOUSE...
WHAT AM I DOING?
STARS IN THE NIGHT, O HAPPY
OW!
DO I EVEN KNOW THIS SHABBY APARTMENT BUILDING?
I'M NOT THE SORT, BUT THE OCCASION CALLS FOR WINE.
WAIT, WHAT'S THIS? SHE HASN'T EVEN BEGUN YET!
I'M HO—
HM.
OUT SHOPPING?
!!


COULD THAT BE IT?
COME BACK, I BEG YOU!
NO... IT CAN'T BE. WHY NOW? HER MEMORIES ...

KLANG!
SH... SHIT...
SH...
I KNOW. SHE'S NEVER COMING BACK TO ME.
WHAT'S UP, LONER... COME WITH US.
ALL RIGHT, I'M GONNA SPEND IT ALL!
CARDS!
LET'S GAMBLE

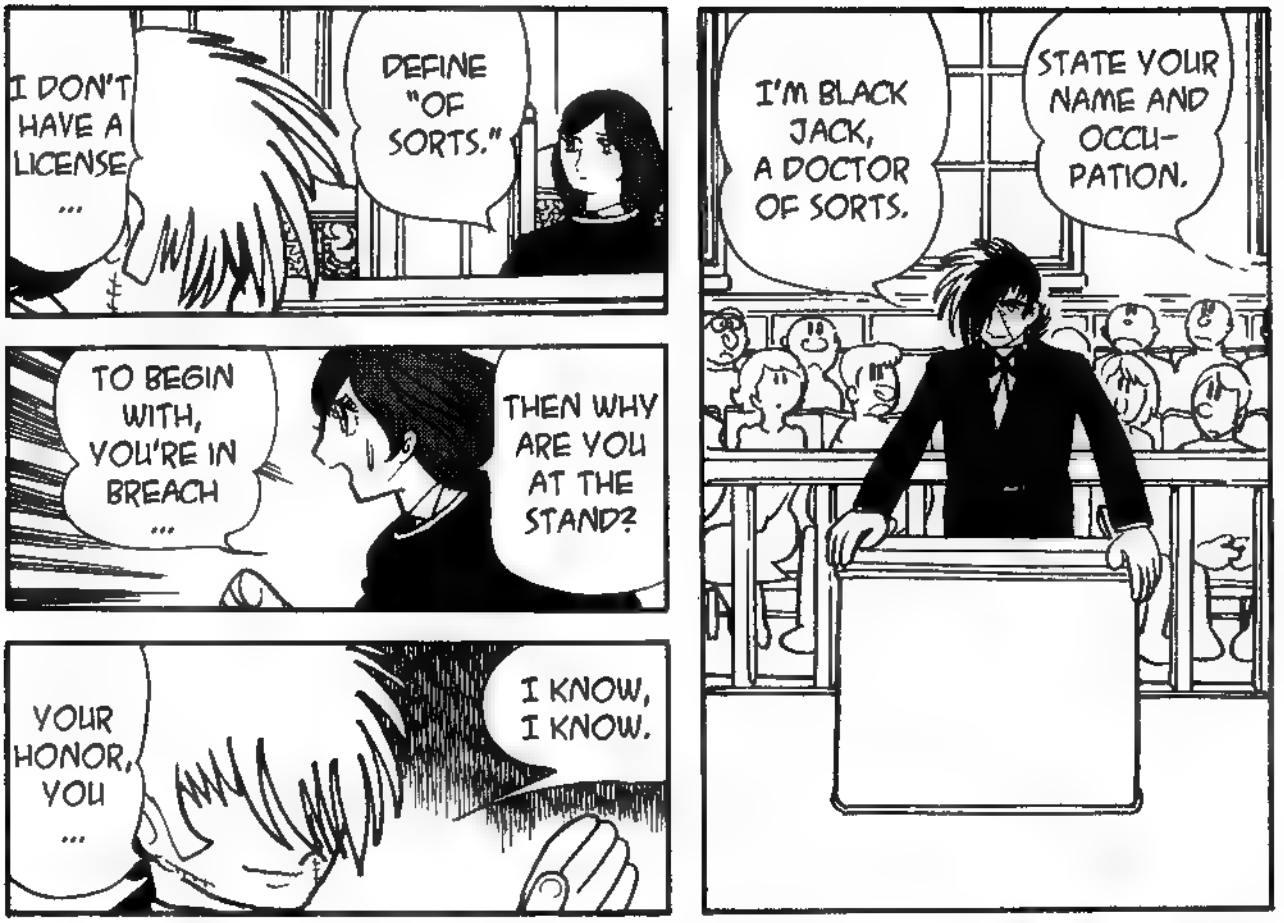
DAMN. 100 THOU!
GETTING LUCKY?
HAH
FIFTY THOU!
THERE, 200 THOU!
HOW'S THAT?
HALT. THIS JOINT IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY.
IS IT YOU?
THE BOOKMAKER INVITED ME. I KNOW THIS IS A SECRET CASINO.
I'M A DOC-TOR.

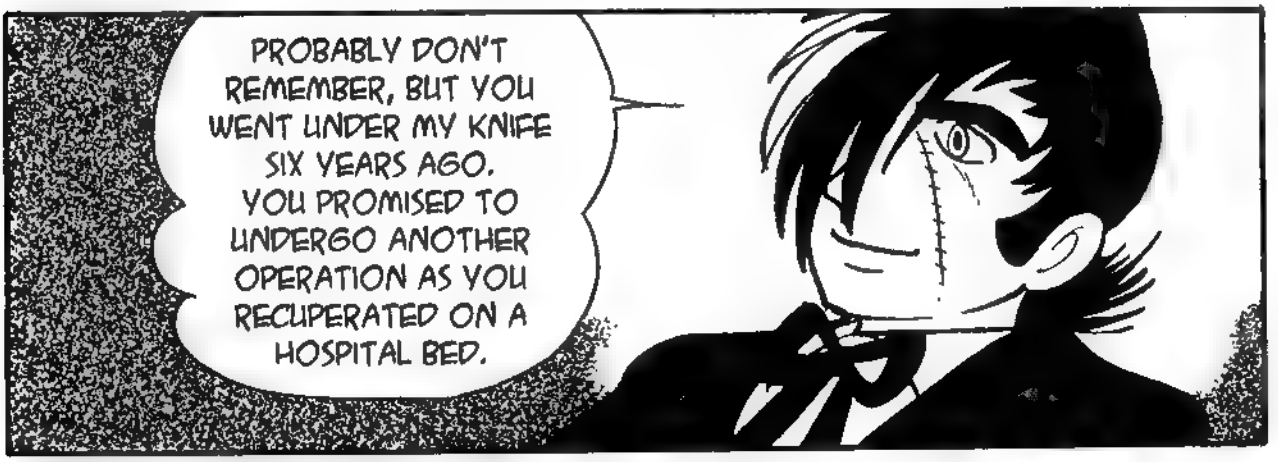
YEAH, AND YOU CAME IN WITH A WOMAN YOU'D RUN OVER.
YOU WORKED IN AN E.R. SIX YEARS AGO.
ARE YOU DOCTOR HAZAMA?
HAH. THESE DAYS I PREFER "BLACK JACK" ...
AND THE EARNEST BOY EMPLOYEE MANAGES A GAMBLING DEN.
CUT IT OUT.
HOW YOU'VE CHANGED, DOC. YOU LOOK LIKE SOME SORTA THUG.
SIX YEARS ...
YUP, THAT WAS ME. LONG TIME NO SEE.
YOU WORKED YOUR ASS OFF FOR THAT WOMAN, PAID HER HOSPITAL BILLS... UNFAIR, EH?
DON'T TALK ABOUT HER... IT'S ALL IN THE PAST.
DON'T ASK ME. SHE RECALLED HER PAST AND LEFT.
SO WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
I'VE BEEN SKIDDING ...
EVER SINCE

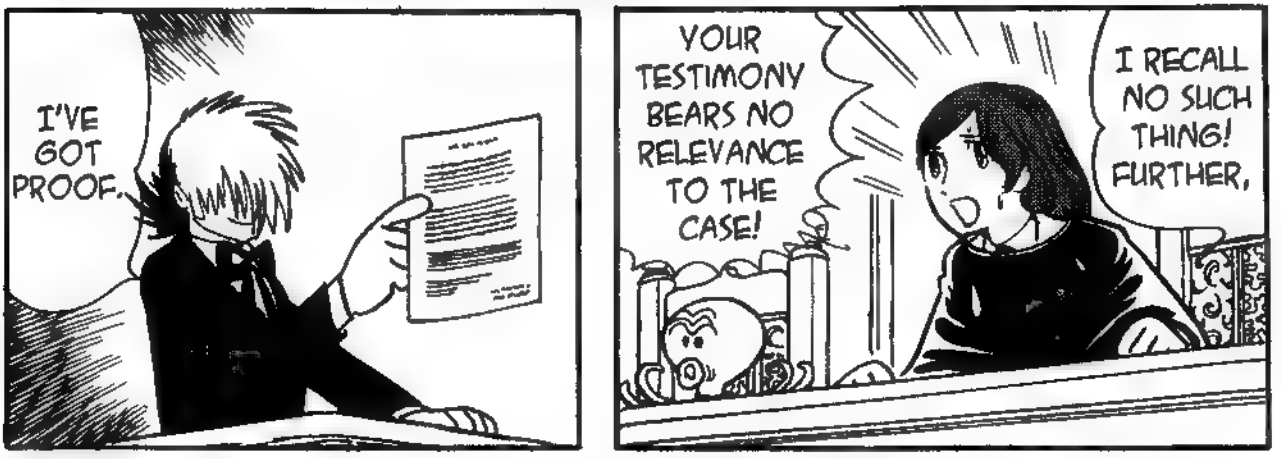
WHOA
TURN OFF THE LIGHT. USE THE BACK DOOR!
HELP!
DOC, GO! IT'S THE COPS.
DAMMIT, IT'S A STING! RUN FOR IT!
PWEE
PWEE
ROUNDUP OF SMUGGLING AND GAMBLING RING
SURE, WHY NOT ...
ADMIT YOUR GUILT!
THE TRIAL OF AKIRA TORU, 32, ONE OF THE BOSSES OF A RECENTLY-BUSTED NATIONAL NARCOTICS AND GAMBLING SYNDICATE, IS SET TO BEGIN TODAY. THE PRESIDING JUDGE IS A YOUNG AND UPCOMING...

PLEASE RISE!
WATCH YOUR MANNERS, THIS WOMAN JUDGE IS STRICT.
HUH, A WO-MAN ?
THE COURT ORDERS YOU TO STEP UP.
Y... YOU'RE...
I MEAN, YOUR HONOR...
HEY ...
PLEASE LOOK AT MY FACE.
DEFENDANT AKIRA TORU, STEP UP TO THE WITNESS STAND.

HA HA HA! WA HA HA!
HEH
...
THERE WILL BE NO PRIVATE TALK.
DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE WE'VE MET?
HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THIS MUG BEFORE?
YOU'LL BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT IF YOU DON'T STOP LAUGHING.
HA HA HA
WAH HAH HAH HAH!
THE DEFENDANT AKIRA TORU HAS ADMITTED TO RUNNING NARCOTICS AND GAMBLING OPERATIONS. THIS COURT WILL IMMEDIATELY PROCEED TO...
SO YOU WERE STUDYING LAW... YOU'VE MADE IT BIG TIME. CHEERS TO THAT.
YOU LOOK GREAT.
WE'RE STRANGERS AFTER ALL.
I GUESS NOT.
VERY WELL.
WE HAVE A NEW WITNESS, YOUR HONOR.
UM


I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE ...
DEFINE "OF SORTS."
TO BEGIN WITH, YOU'RE IN BREACH ...
THEN WHY ARE YOU AT THE STAND?
YOUR HONOR, YOU ...
I KNOW, I KNOW.
I'M BLACK JACK, A DOCTOR OF SORTS.
STATE YOUR NAME AND OCCU-PATION.


PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER, BUT YOU WENT UNDER MY KNIFE SIX YEARS AGO. YOU PROMISED TO UNDERGO ANOTHER OPERATION AS YOU RECUPERATED ON A HOSPITAL BED.

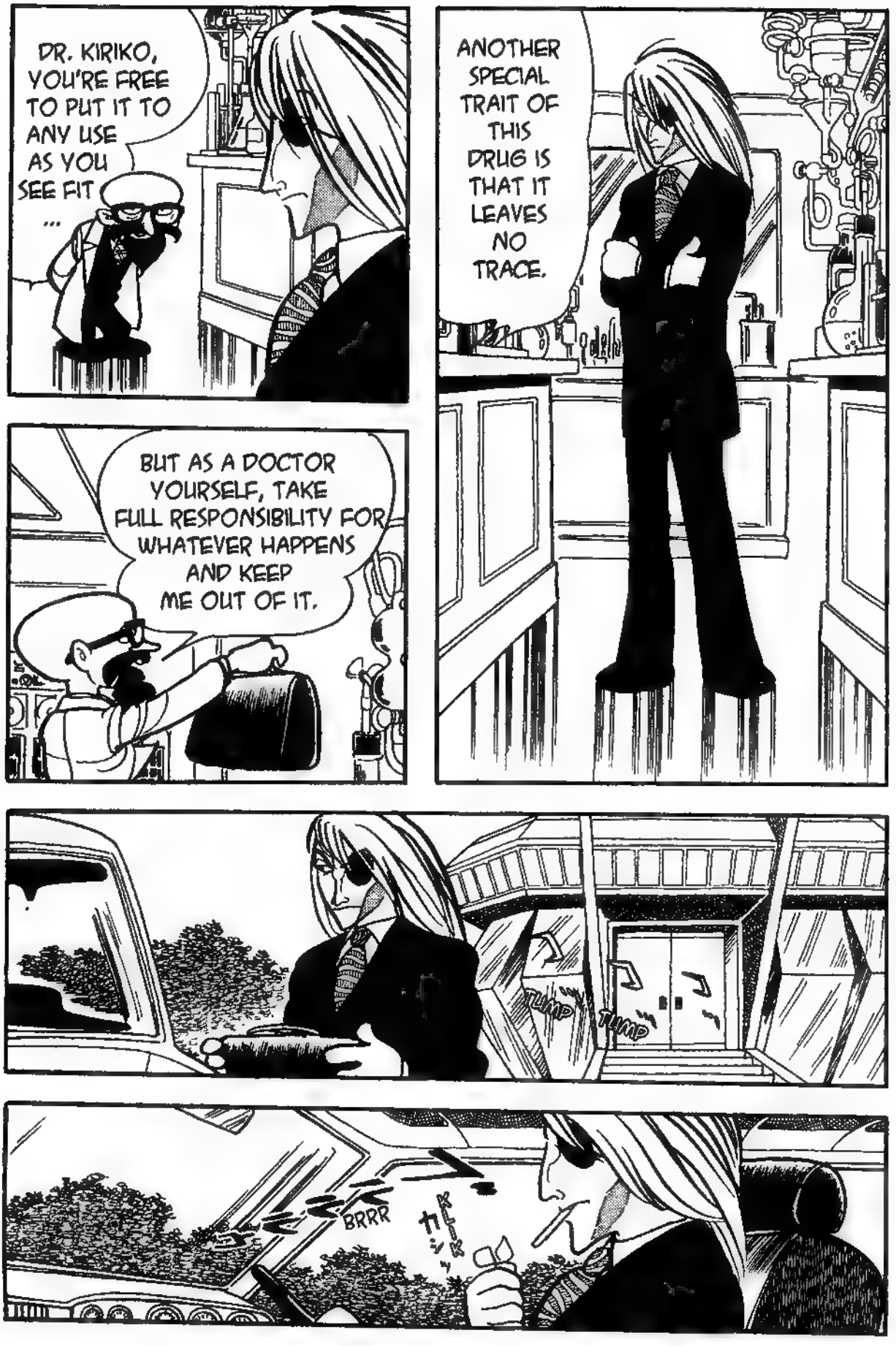

I'VE GOT PROOF.
YOUR TESTIMONY BEARS NO RELEVANCE TO THE CASE!
I RECALL NO SUCH THING! FURTHER,

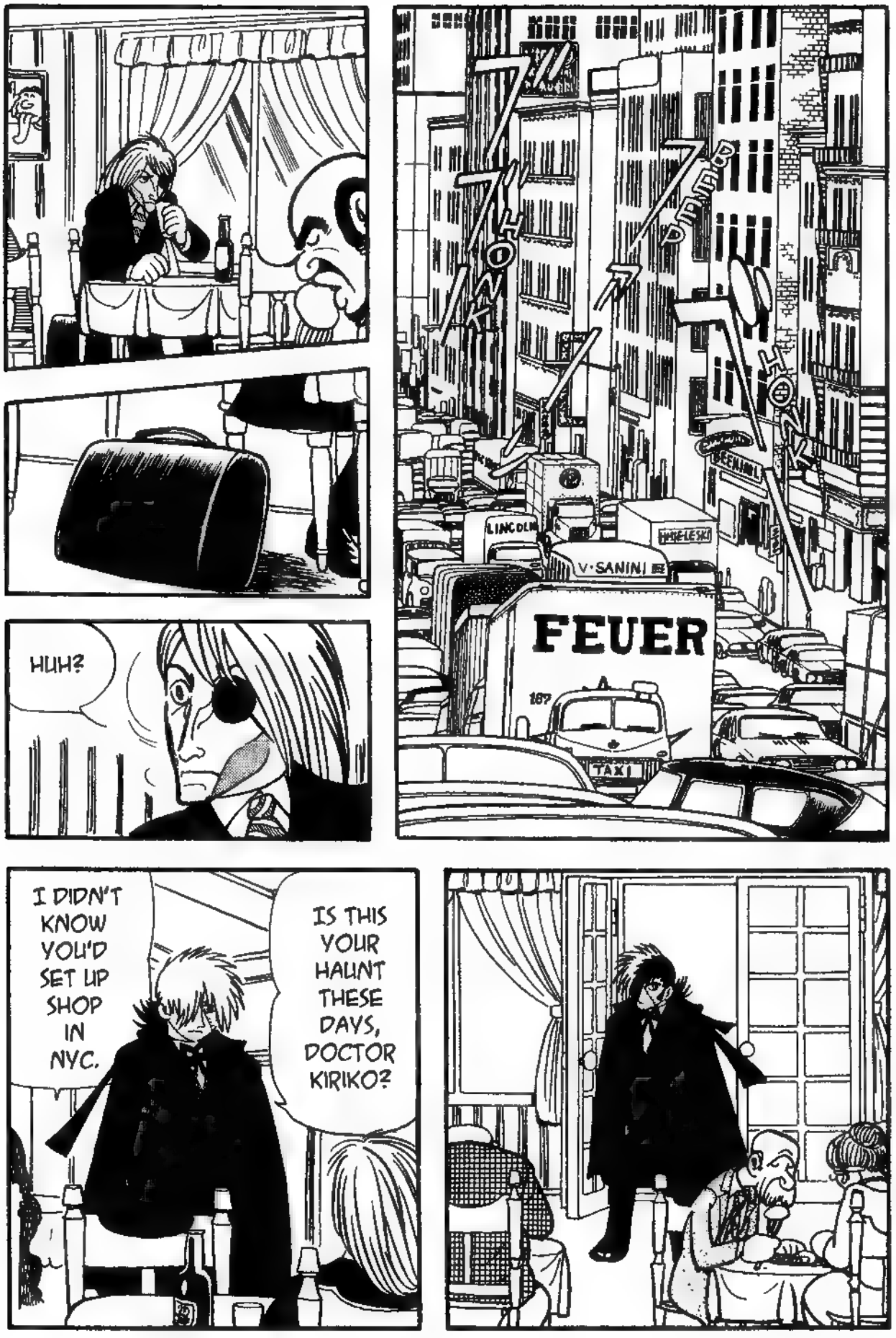
THAT'S YOUR SIGNATURE AT THE BOTTOM RESERVING AN OPERATION. YOU SIGNED IT WHILE YOU WERE RECOVERING.
POOR AKIRA TORU !!
BUT PERHAPS IT HAS SOME BEARING ON THE DEFENSE OF
IT SURE IS.
EVEN IF I DID, THE MATTER IS PRIVATE.
THAT WAS IN MY HAND.
OF HOW HE BECAME WHAT HE IS. FOR THAT PURPOSE, YOUR HONOR, YOU'LL FULFILL YOUR PROMISE WITH ME.
HE'S CERTAINLY AN OUTLAW WHO DEALT IN DRUGS AND GAMES, BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES...
LET ME OPERATE AND YOU'LL SEE.
BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ?!

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, I'LL BE DARNED.
...
TRY TO RECALL HIS FACE!
THERE WAS A YOUTH BY YOUR SIDE.
SIX YEARS AGO, YOU LAY ON THIS VERY SAME BED.
A... KI... RA!!

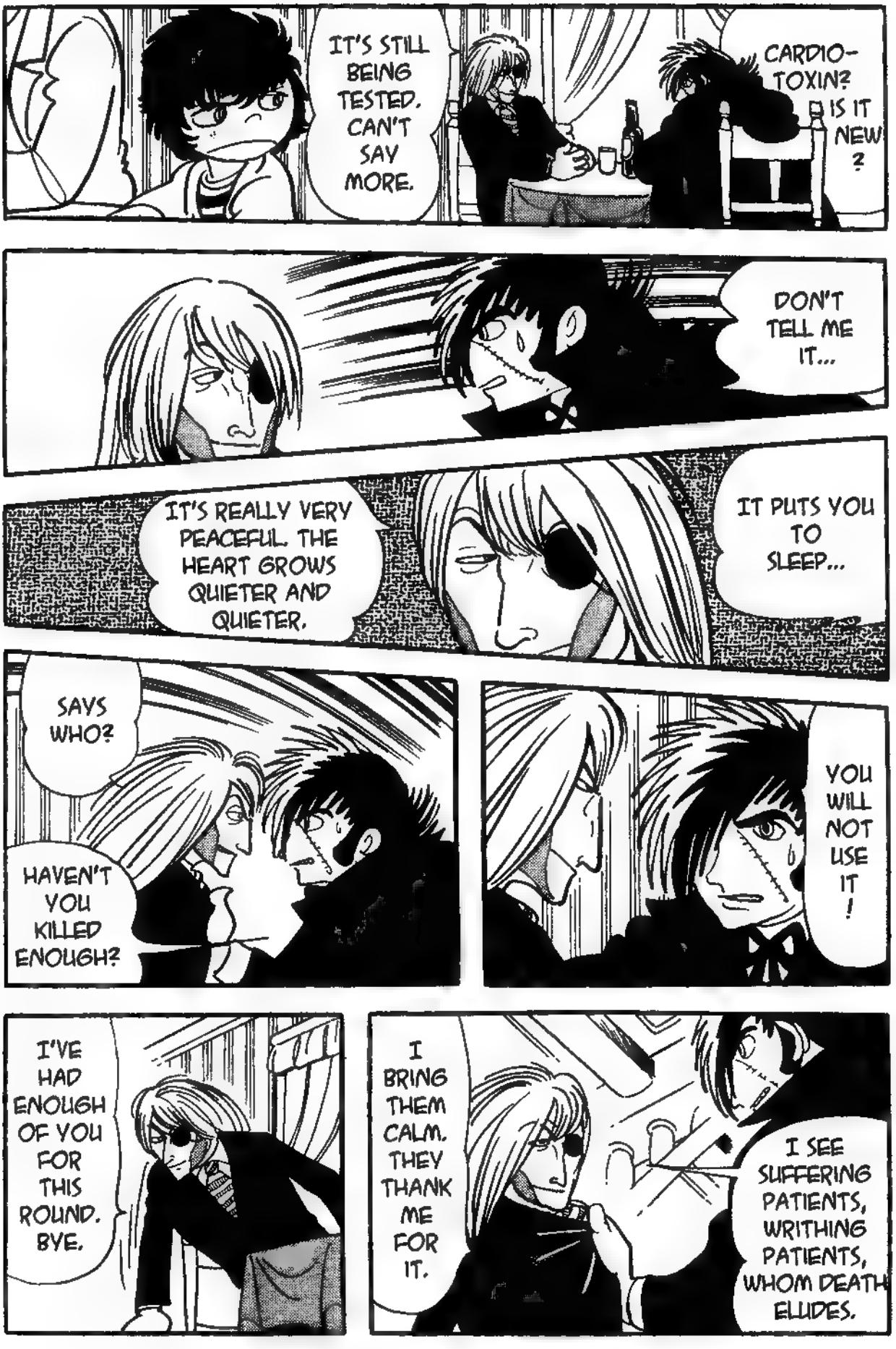
ONE HOUR TO DEATH

WHEN THIS LIQUID IS INGESTED, IT INDUCES FIRST A DEEP, SATISFYING SLEEP.
LET US GIVE IT A TRY.
SUCK
THE NAZIS WANTED TO USE IT FOR THEIR FINAL SOLUTION.
THIS DRUG WAS BEING DEVELOPED IN 1942 IN GERMANY.
NOW IT'S DEAD.
YOU SEE, THE HEARTBEAT IS WEAKENING VERY SLOWLY.
THE RESEARCH PROVED TOO COSTLY. BUT I HAVE COMPLETED IT.


DR. KIRIKO, YOU'RE FREE TO PUT IT TO ANY USE AS YOU SEE FIT ...
ANOTHER SPECIAL TRAIT OF THIS DRUG IS THAT IT LEAVES NO TRACE.
BUT AS A DOCTOR YOURSELF, TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHATEVER HAPPENS AND KEEP ME OUT OF IT.
THUMP THUMP
BRRR

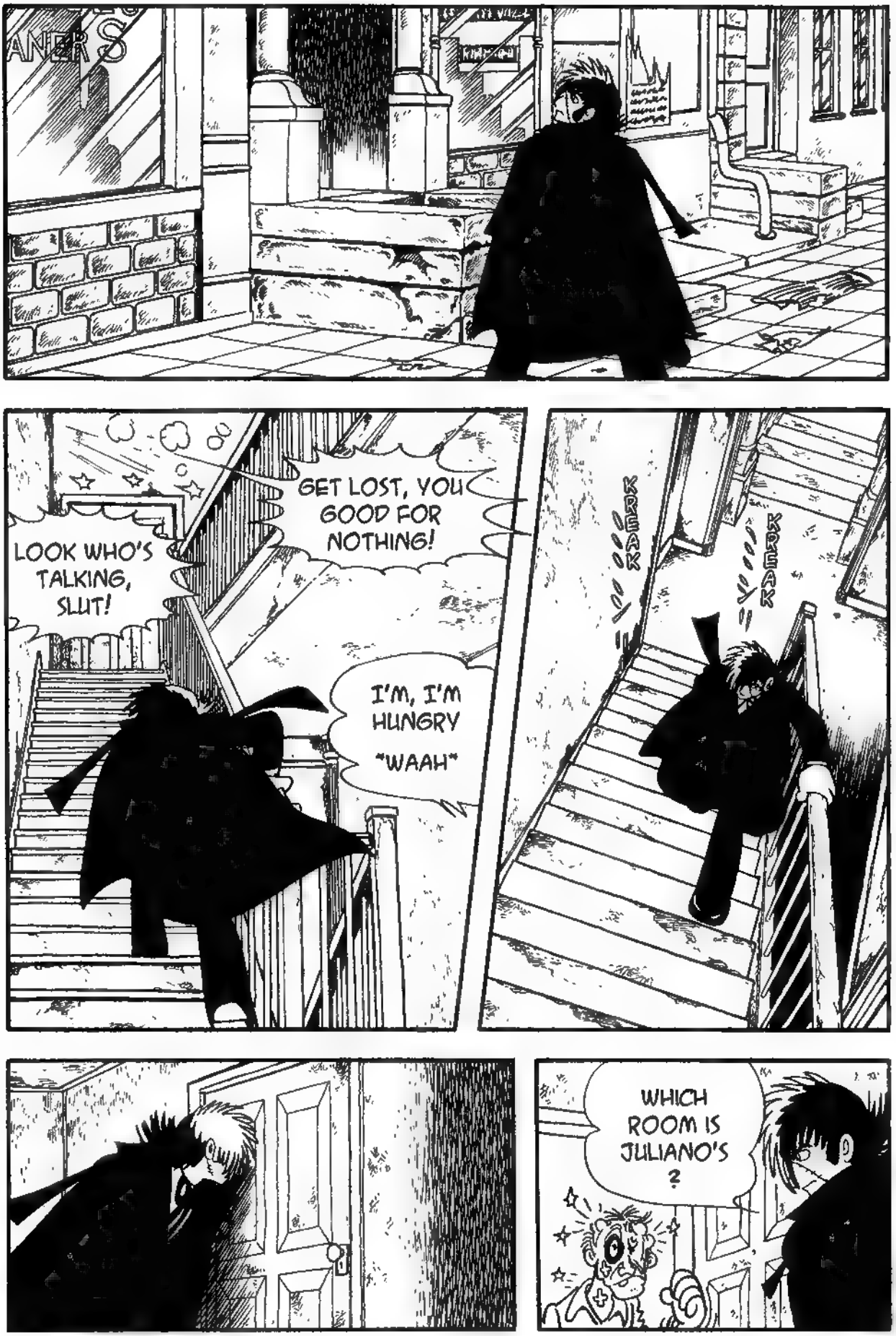

HUH?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D SET UP SHOP IN NYC.
IS THIS YOUR HAUNT THESE DAYS, DOCTOR KIRIKO?
FEUER
TAXI

I'M NOT. I'VE GOT A CERTAIN GOOD CUSTOMER IN THIS CITY.
NO, LET ME ASK YOU. WHY DO YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW ME AROUND?
YOU MEAN, PUT TO REST?
WHO DID YOU KILL?
THEN WE'RE BOTH HERE ON SHADY BUSINESS.
AT ANY RATE, I'M NOT HERE TO SEE A PATIENT.
WHEN WILL YOU STOP KILLING PEOPLE BASED ON YOUR DUBIOUS JUDGMENT?
YOU PLY YOUR TRADE, I MINE.
I CAME TO PROCURE A FINE DRUG CALLED CARDIOTOXIN.


IT'S STILL BEING TESTED. CAN'T SAY MORE.
CARDIO-TOXIN? IS IT NEW?
DON'T TELL ME IT...
IT'S REALLY VERY PEACEFUL. THE HEART GROWS QUIETER AND QUIETER.
IT PUTS YOU TO SLEEP...
SAYS WHO?
HAVEN'T YOU KILLED ENOUGH?
YOU WILL NOT USE IT!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU FOR THIS ROUND. BYE.
I BRING THEM CALM. THEY THANK ME FOR IT.
I SEE SUFFERING PATIENTS, WRITHING PATIENTS, WHOM DEATH ELUDES.

THE BAG I HAD HERE! SOMEBODY STOLE IT!
UH
NAH, SORRY.
BARTENDER, DID YOU SEE ANYONE APPROACH MY TABLE?
WAIT! PAY FOR YOUR BUDDY TOO.
DAMMIT!
DID YOU SEE ANY-ONE LEAVE WITH MY BAG?

I'LL PAY, BUT TELL ME...
FINE
YOU SAT WITH HIM.
THAT MAN IS NOT MY BUDDY!
OH YES, THIS JULIANO KID IN THE APARTMENT ON 6TH ST SNATCHES THEM GOOD AND FAST.
HERE, YOUR TIP.
NO ONE ...
WHO'S KNOWN FOR FILCHING THINGS ON THIS BLOCK?
HE TAKES HIS LOOT TO A JUNK SHOP RIGHT AWAY.
YOU WON'T GET IT BACK FROM HIM, THOUGH.
I DON'T BE-LIEVE THIS.


GET LOST, YOU GOOD FOR NOTHING!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, SLUT!
I'M, I'M HUNGRY
"WAAH"
KRAKOK
KRAKOK
WHICH ROOM IS JULIANO'S ?

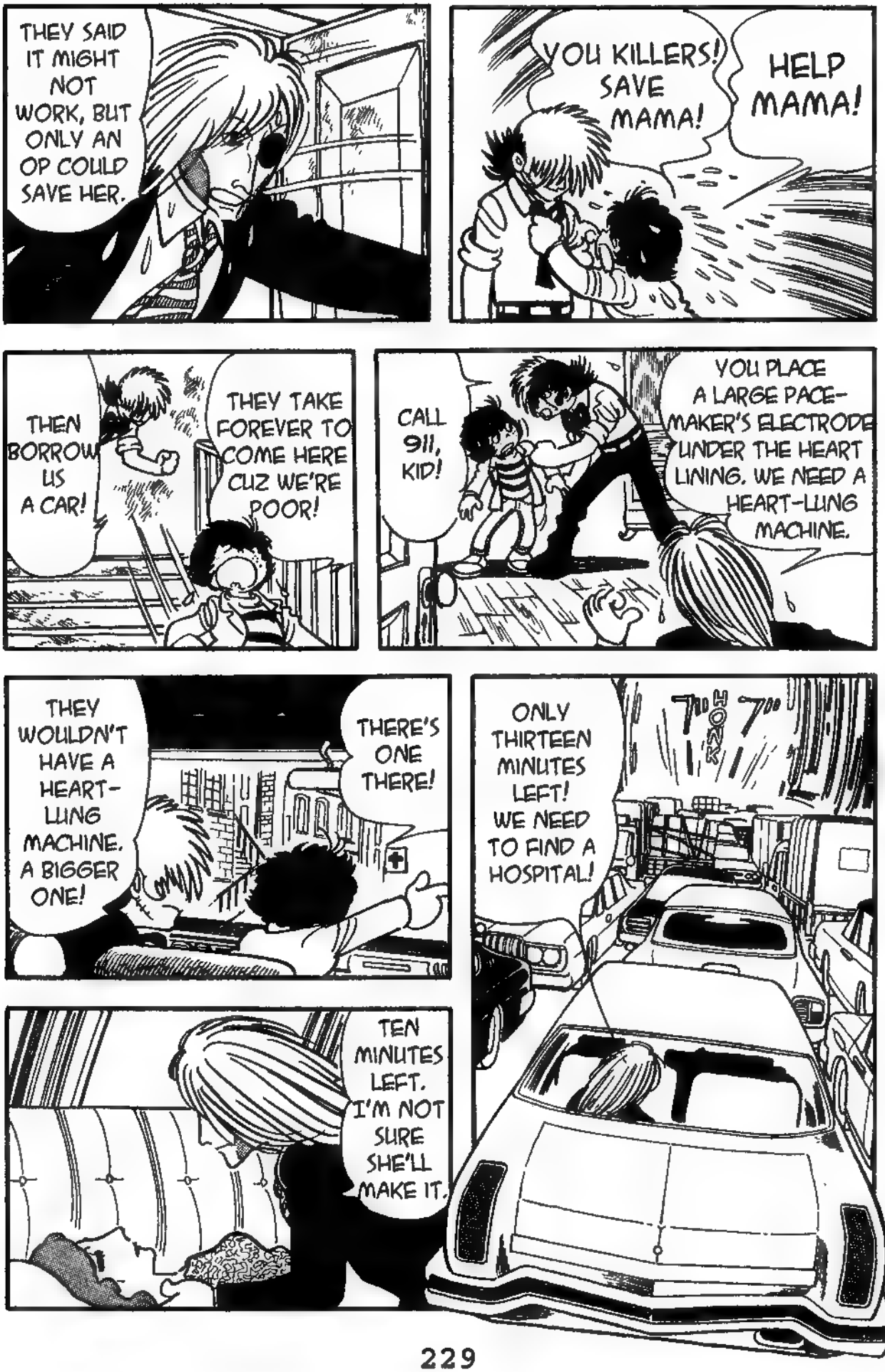
BAM
NO!! SHE DRANK IT?!
WAIT!
KID, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
LAD
BITE

DON'T TRY TA SCARE ME. I HEARD YOU GUYS DISCUSSIN' IT.
HEAR WHAT ?!
THAT WAS THE NEW DRUG.
I TOLD YA I HEARD YA!
SHE'LL DIE IN AN HOUR!
MY MAMA'S GOT HEART DISEASE. SHE'S ALWAYS SUFFERING.
FOOL!
YOU GAVE HER THE DRUG IN THAT BAG! WHAT DID YOU THINK IT WAS?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT? REALLY! I'VE NO IDEA.
I'M SERIOUS. THAT WAS POISON!

HER HEART WILL SLOW DOWN AND SHE'LL DIE IN HER SLEEP.
SHE COULDN'T THESE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.
LOOK, SHE'S SLEEPIN' FINE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
FIND THE MAN YOU STOLE THAT BAG FROM AND BRING HIM HERE.
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.
AM I S'POSED TA BE SCARED?
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M KID-DING ?!
HE KNOWS WHERE IT CAME FROM ...
I NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DRUG.
GET GOING, NOW!

THUMP
THUMP
NOT YET?!
40 MINS. LEFT...
HER PULSE IS WEAKENING. SO IT'S TRUE...
TWENTY MINUTES LEFT...
BUT A CARDIOTONIC WOULD BE TOO RISKY!
NO!

BAM!
I SAW IT USED ON A MONKEY. IT DIED IN EXACTLY AN HOUR.
SHE WILL TOO IF SHE HAD A BIG ENOUGH DOSE OF IT.
SHE DID?
THEN IT'S TOO LATE.
SEE THIS?
SHE HAD A BIG DOSE. WE'VE NO TIME!
DO YOU HAVE THE NUMBER OF THE SELLER?
WAAH
MAMA! MAMA, DON'T DIE!
GOT IT!
CALL AND ASK IF THERE'S A CURE. IT'S THE ONLY WAY!


THEY SAID IT MIGHT NOT WORK, BUT ONLY AN OP COULD SAVE HER.
YOU KILLERS! SAVE MAMA!
HELP MAMA!
THEN BORROW US A CAR!
THEY TAKE FOREVER TO COME HERE CUZ WE'RE POOR!
CALL 911, KID!
YOU PLACE A LARGE PACE-MAKER'S ELECTRODE UNDER THE HEART LINING. WE NEED A HEART-LUNG MACHINE.
THEY WOULDN'T HAVE A HEART-LUNG MACHINE. A BIGGER ONE!
THERE'S ONE THERE!
ONLY THIRTEEN MINUTES LEFT! WE NEED TO FIND A HOSPITAL!
HONK
TEN MINUTES LEFT. I'M NOT SURE SHE'LL MAKE IT.

BAM
THAT ONE'S BIG! OKAY, LET'S PARK.
SKREE
I WANT YOUR DIREC-TOR!
WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THAT!
F-FILL OUT THE E.R. FORM THEN.
I BROUGHT A PATIENT WITH TOXIC POISONING WHO NEEDS SURGERY RIGHT NOW.
YOU ASKED FOR ME?
WE NEED AN O.R.!
IF I HAVE THREE, I CAN GET INTO THE HEART. THE REST'S LUCK!
HARDLY ENOUGH FOR AN OP.
WE'VE ONLY FIVE MINUTES LEFT!

O-OKAY, BUT OUR OPERATING SURGEON ISN'T AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW...
SHE'S ON THE VERGE OF ADAM-STOKES AND REQUIRES ARTIFICIAL PACING. TIME IS AGAINST US!
FOUR MINUTES LEFT!
WH-WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
WE'LL DO IT! WE NEED A HEART-LUNG MACHINE AND A LARGE PACE-MAKER!
IT'S NO USE ...
I CAN DO IT!
TWO MINUTES LEFT!
HER PULSE IS INTERMITTENT. ADAM-STOKES SETTING IN AT ANY MOMENT!

NOTE: ADAM-STOKES SYNDROME = A DANGEROUS STATE WHERE BRAIN CELLS START TO DIE FROM A LACK OF BLOOD DUE TO HEART STOPPAGE

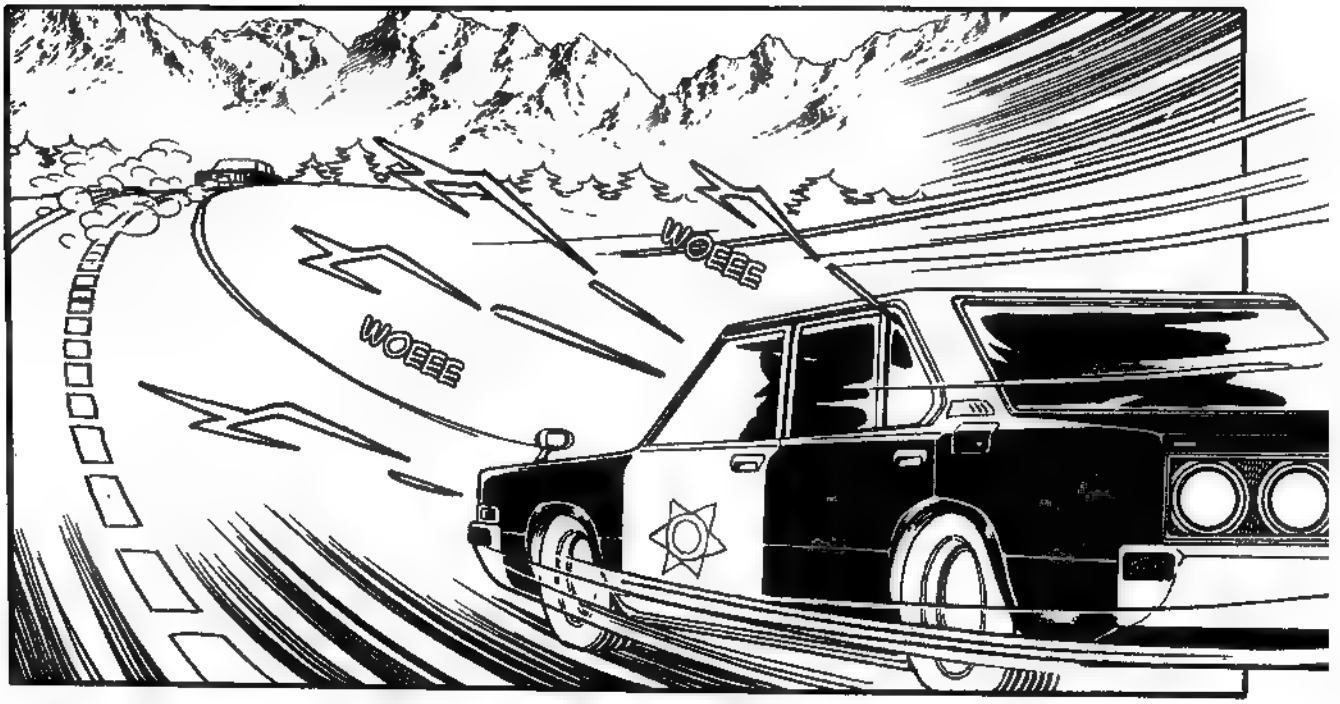
CUT
BLACK JACK, IT'S TOO LATE. WE NEED TO GIVE UP.
TURN ON THE HEART-LUNG!
HE'S ABSURDLY FAST!
ELEC-TRODE
SNIP
OPEN-ING LIN-ING!
WE'RE AT THE HEART.

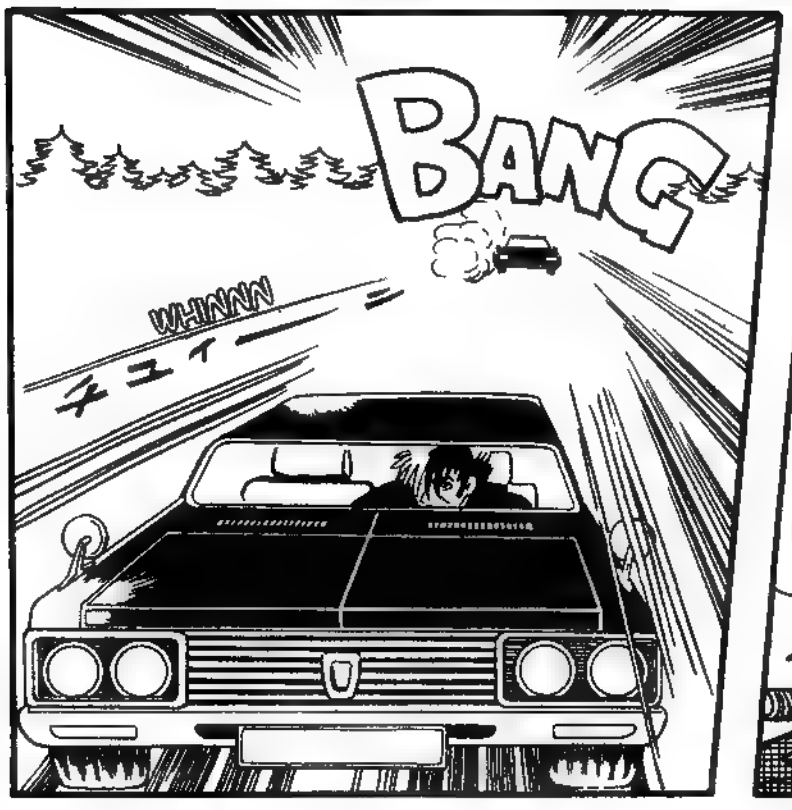
THERE
THUMP
YOU SAVED THIS PERSON JUST IN TIME.
PLEASE DO THE REST.
YES !!
YESSS...
HER PULSE IS COMING BACK...
THUMP
PHEW
DIGI-TALIS, SMALL DOSE ...
SU-TURE
PLACE THE PACE-MAKER ...
SO MAMA WILL BE OKAY?
...
JULIANO, GO BUY ME TOBACCO.

WHICH FEELS BETTER, KILLING OR CURING?
TELL ME, BIG SHOT ...
FOR NOW,
SHE SEEMS TO BE STABLE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO.
BY THE WAY, WHO'LL BE PAYING ME THIS TIME?
SAVING A LIFE, THAT'S THE BEST THING ...
DON'T BE A FOOL. I'M A DOCTOR TOO.
THANKS, ASSHOLE, I WAS IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD!

RANDOM KILLER

ALASKA, NEAR MT. MCKINLEY
ゴゴゴゴ
VOOM
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴオオー
ROAR
ブロロロ
BROAAAA
WOEEE
WOEEE
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
—COMMAND

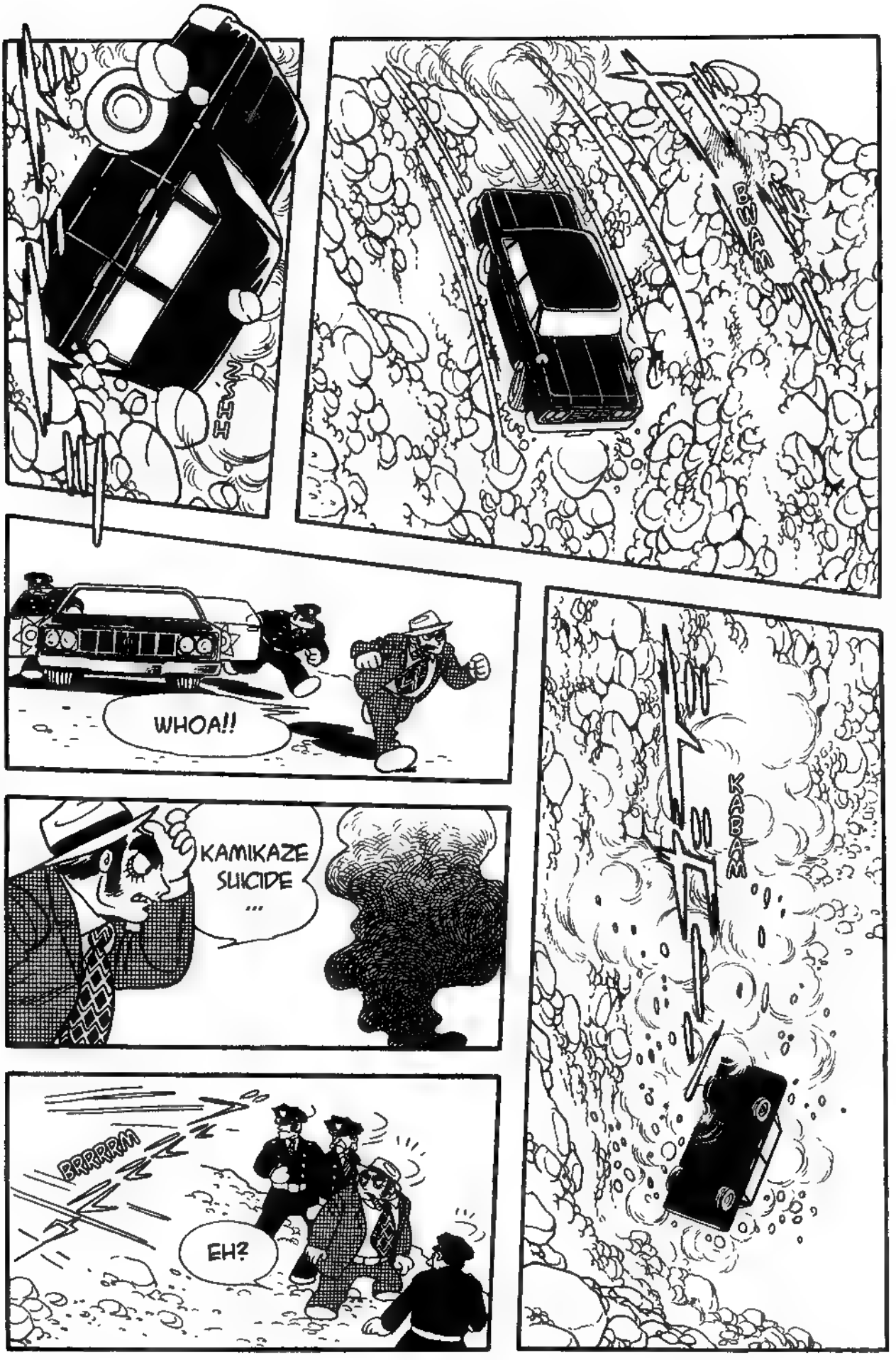

WOEEE
WOEEE

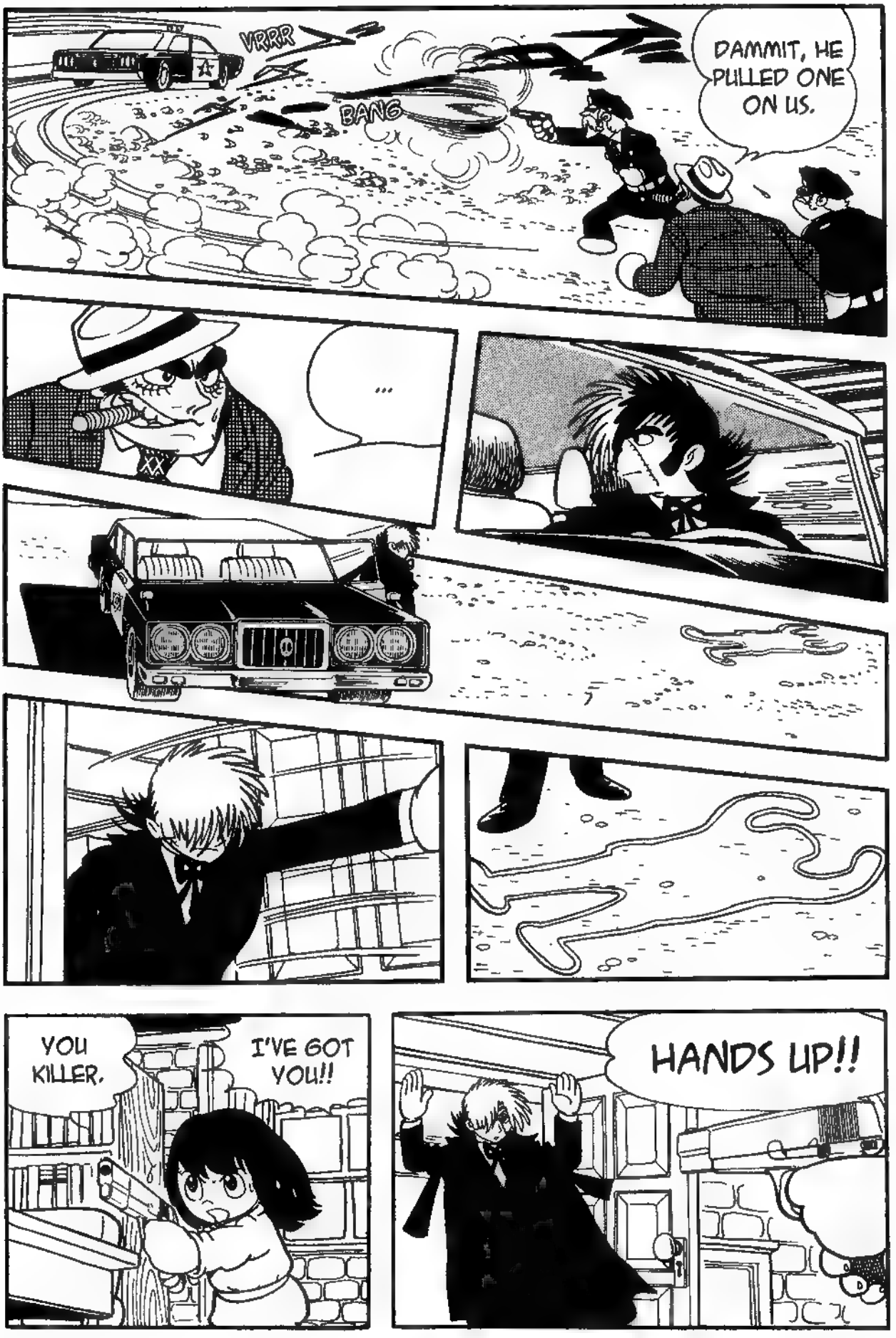

BANG
WHNNN
ナユィー

DAMN JAP

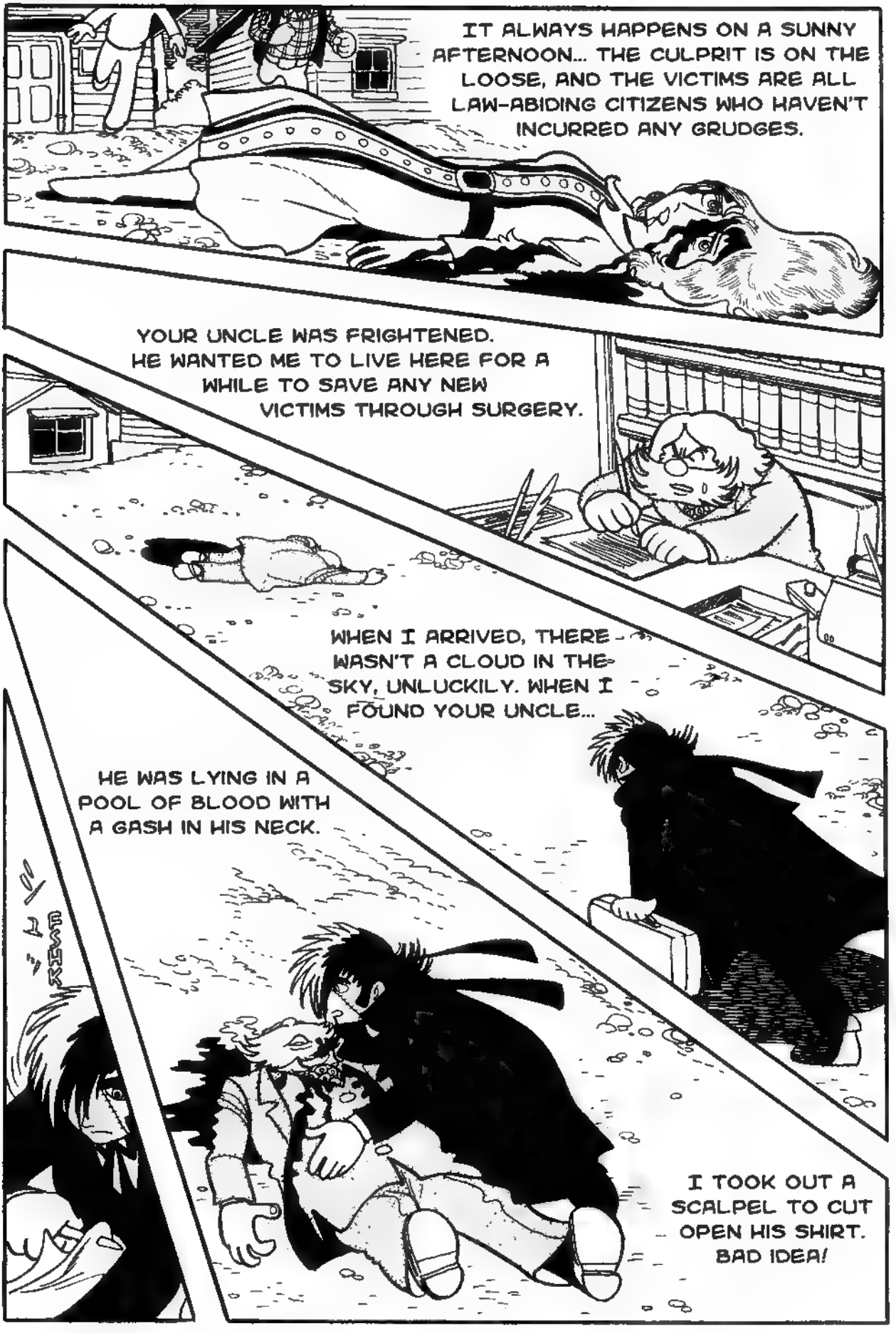
NO NEED FOR THAT, AIM FOR THE TIRES. I NEED HIM TO FESS UP.
DO WE SHOOT TO KILL?

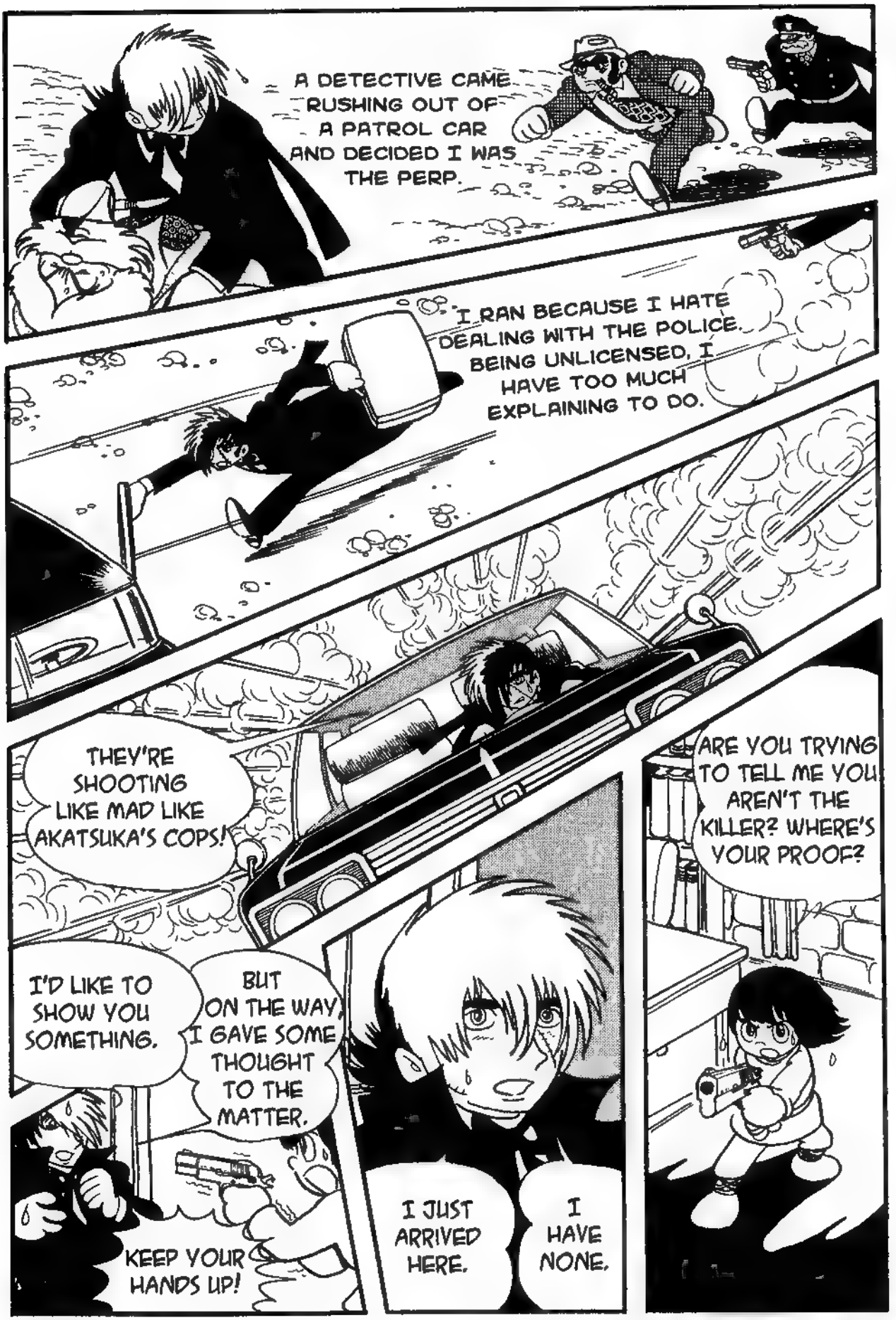
SKREEEE
BROAM
SWERVED OFF ON PURPOSE, DID HE?
WHAT A HANDFUL.
VRRR
YOU'RE HEADING FOR A DEAD END, IDIOT.
BRRRM
SQUEE


BWAM
WHOA!!
KAMIKAZE SUICIDE ...
KABAM
BRRRRM
EH?

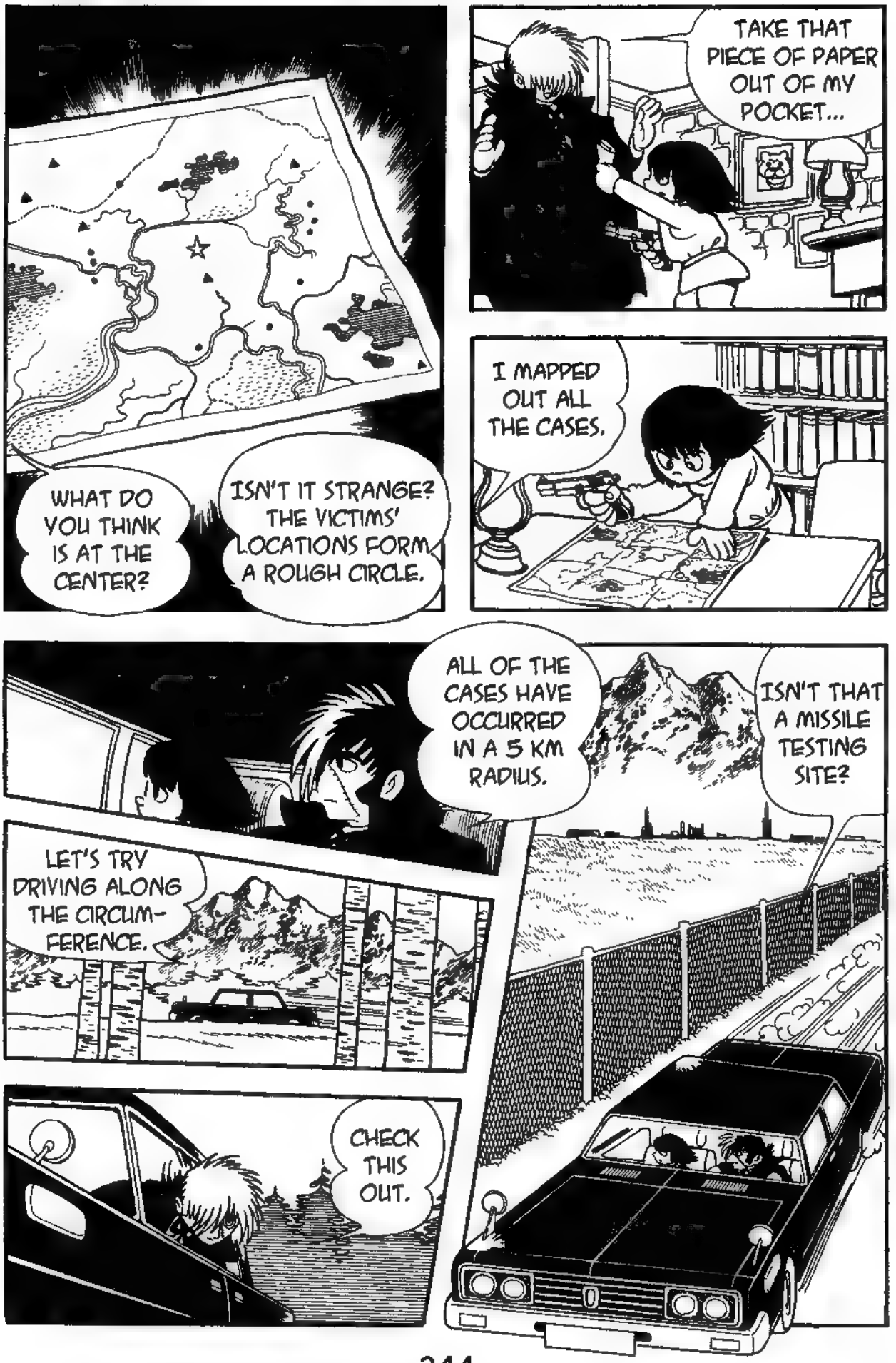

VRRR
BANG
DAMMIT, HE PULLED ONE ON US.
...
YOU KILLER.
I'VE GOT YOU!!
HANDS UP!!

IF I WERE THE SERIAL KILLER, WHY'D I SAUNTER BACK HERE?
DIDN'T YOU ?!
YOU KILLED MY UNCLE WITH A KATANA,
KID, THIS IS SOME MISTAKE ...
SHUT UP! YOU WERE RIGHT BY HIM WHEN HE WAS CUT DOWN!
ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, FREQUENT, MYSTERIOUS INJURIES PLAGUE THIS TOWN.
ALL OF THE VICTIMS SUFFER CLEAN CUTS TO SOME PART OF THEIR BODY.
JUST HEAR OUT MY SIDE OF IT ...
I'M A DOCTOR. YOUR UNCLE WROTE TO ME A MONTH AGO.


IT ALWAYS HAPPENS ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON... THE CULPRIT IS ON THE LOOSE, AND THE VICTIMS ARE ALL LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS WHO HAVEN'T INCURRED ANY GRUDGES.
YOUR UNCLE WAS FRIGHTENED. HE WANTED ME TO LIVE HERE FOR A WHILE TO SAVE ANY NEW VICTIMS THROUGH SURGERY.
WHEN I ARRIVED, THERE WASN'T A CLOUD IN THE SKY, UNLUCKILY. WHEN I FOUND YOUR UNCLE...
HE WAS LYING IN A POOL OF BLOOD WITH A GASH IN HIS NECK.
I TOOK OUT A SCALPEL TO CUT OPEN HIS SHIRT. BAD IDEA!


A DETECTIVE CAME RUSHING OUT OF A PATROL CAR AND DECIDED I WAS THE PERP.
I RAN BECAUSE I HATE DEALING WITH THE POLICE. BEING UNLICENSED, I HAVE TOO MUCH EXPLAINING TO DO.
THEY'RE SHOOTING LIKE MAD LIKE AKATSUKA'S COPS!
I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
BUT ON THE WAY, I GAVE SOME THOUGHT TO THE MATTER.
KEEP YOUR HANDS UP!
I JUST ARRIVED HERE.
I HAVE NONE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME YOU AREN'T THE KILLER? WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?

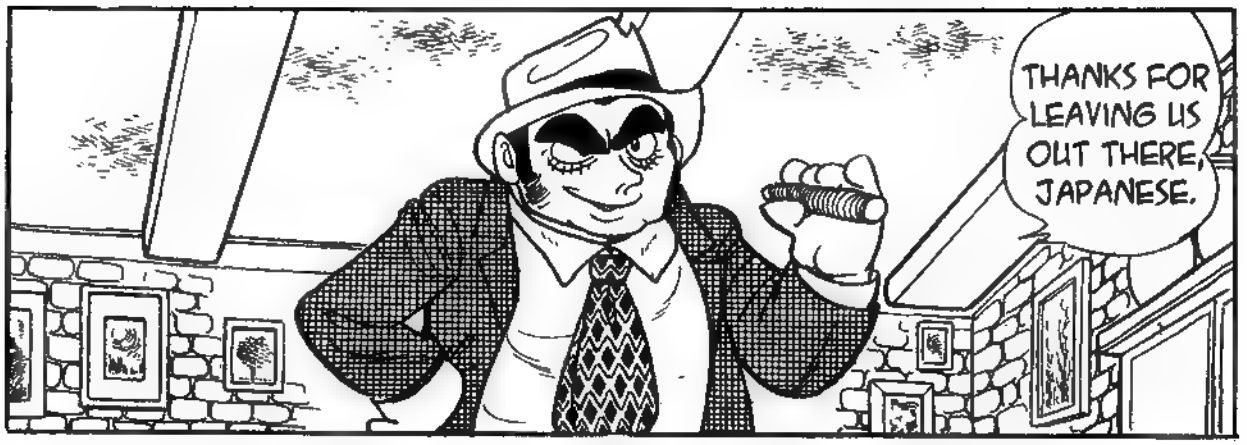
NOTE: THE LATE FUJIO AKATSUKA (1935–2008) WAS THE KING OF GAG MANGA.


TAKE THAT PIECE OF PAPER OUT OF MY POCKET...
I MAPPED OUT ALL THE CASES.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS AT THE CENTER?
ISN'T IT STRANGE? THE VICTIMS' LOCATIONS FORM A ROUGH CIRCLE.
ALL OF THE CASES HAVE OCCURRED IN A 5 KM RADIUS.
ISN'T THAT A MISSILE TESTING SITE?
LET'S TRY DRIVING ALONG THE CIRCUM-FERENCE.
CHECK THIS OUT.

WHY KILL A RABBIT LIKE THIS?
A RANDOM VICTIM, I'M SURE.
THIS WILD RABBIT'S BEEN NEARLY CUT IN HALF.
WHAT SANE MAN WOULD GO AROUND DOING THIS?
SEE THAT TREE?
WHAT'S DOING THIS?!
IT MUST HAVE FLED CRAWLING FROM THE ROAD TO DIE HERE.

THERE'S A DRY GOODS SHOP AND A POST OFFICE.
ANY OTHER HOUSES ON THE CIRCLE?
...
STILL THINK IT'S ME?
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED ALREADY...
THEY'D BETTER STAY IN ON SUNNY DAYS OR THEY MIGHT DIE...
I'LL TELL THEM.
WHAT A NASTY PRANK.
SOMEBODY CHOPPED THAT SIGNBOARD CLEAN IN TWO.
ARE YOU ALL OK?

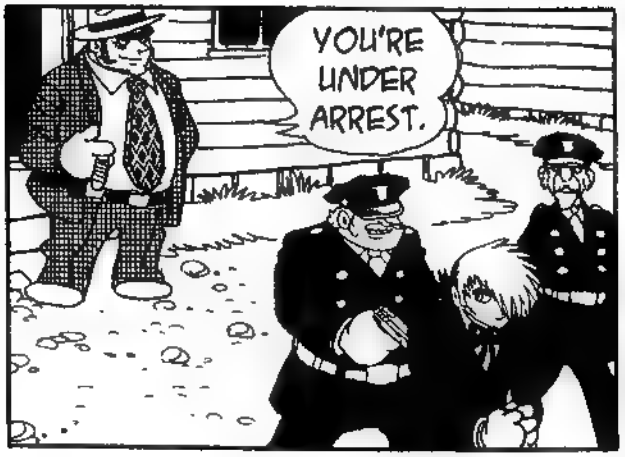
AND MY UNCLE, TOO...
I SAW SLICED-UP BIRDS AND TREES!
LISTEN, IT'S NOT JUST HERE!
BUT IT'S SUCH A CLEAN CUT. WHO COULD DO THIS?
ON SUNNY AFTERNOONS. YOU GOTTA STAY INDOORS!
THIS MAN SAYS THE KILLER COMES ...
HE WAS KILLED BY SOME RANDOM KILLER!
SEE THIS, KID?
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO STRIKE INDOORS ...
EVERYONE BACK TO YOUR HOMES!
I DON'T WANNA BE CUT UP!
HE~LP!


THANKS FOR LEAVING US OUT THERE, JAPANESE.

TAKE OFF THAT STUFFY COAT.

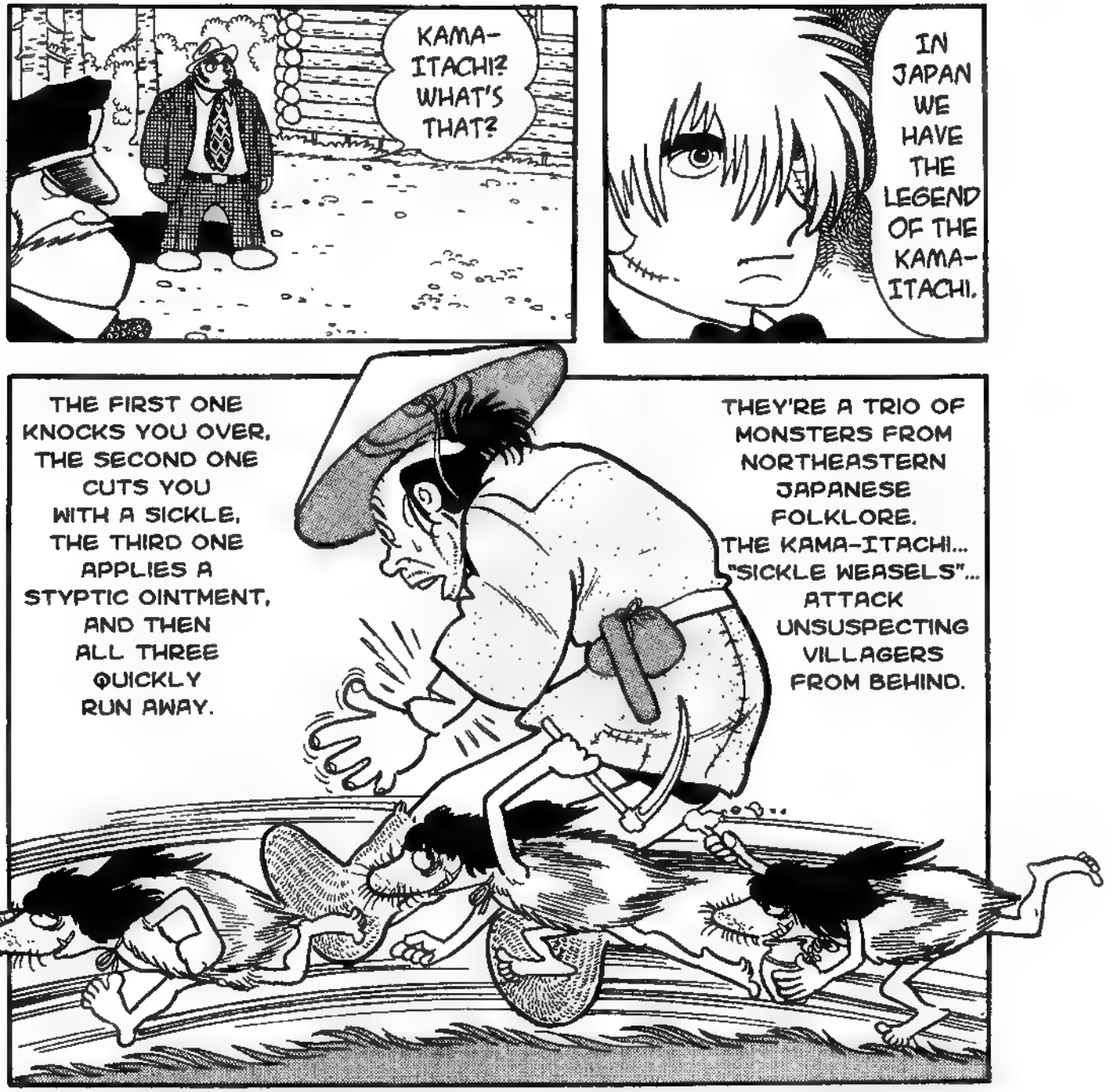
OOPS, NO RESISTING THIS TIME.
BANG, BANG.

THEY'RE EMER-GENCY SURGICAL TOOLS!
FULL OF WEAPONS. SO THAT'S WHY YOU WEAR A COAT WHEN IT'S SUMMER.

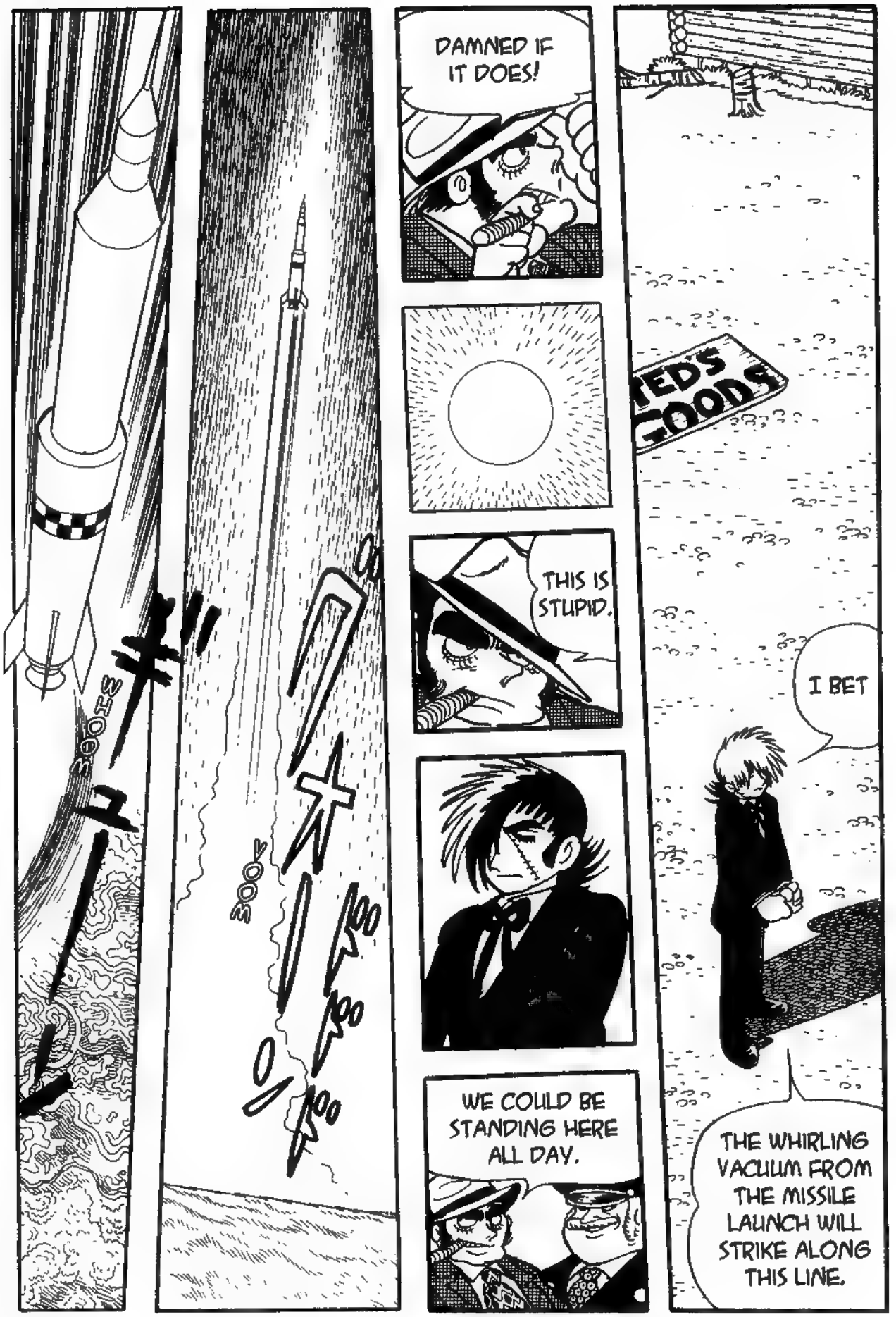

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

BUT ALSO GOOD FOR SLICING THROATS LIKE THIS.

I'D LIKE A WORD.
ONE SEC, SIR.
HEARSE
WHAAT?
FOR JUST AN-OTHER HOUR!
NO, LET ME STAY HERE...
YOU'LL BE SPEAKING MANY IN NO TIME.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GET TO THE BOT-TOM OF THIS?
STOP KIDDING ME, YOU CHARLATAN.
A FRESH ATTACK MIGHT UNFOLD...
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES.
ARE YOU SAYING THE REAL PERP WILL BE HERE IN AN HOUR?
GIVE ME JUST ONE HOUR, AND I'LL TRY TO SOLVE THIS CASE FOR YOU!
IF I FAIL, YOU CAN STILL TAKE ME AWAY.


KAMA-ITACHI? WHAT'S THAT?
IN JAPAN WE HAVE THE LEGEND OF THE KAMA-ITACHI.
THE FIRST ONE KNOCKS YOU OVER, THE SECOND ONE CUTS YOU WITH A SICKLE, THE THIRD ONE APPLIES A STYPTIC OINTMENT, AND THEN ALL THREE QUICKLY RUN AWAY.
THEY'RE A TRIO OF MONSTERS FROM NORTHEASTERN JAPANESE FOLKLORE. THE KAMA-ITACHI... "SICKLE WEASELS"... ATTACK UNSUSPECTING VILLAGERS FROM BEHIND.
THERE'S A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR IT.
WHEN SOMETHING MOVES WITH GREAT SPEED,
IN OTHER WORDS, THE VICTIM SUFFERS A CUT IN THE ABSENCE OF BLADES.

YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THIS BULLSHIT?
THE RUSH OF WIND CREATES A VACUUM THAT CAN SUCK AND LACERATE THE BODY.
ALL THE CASES OCCURRED FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE MISSILE SITE.
ARE YOU NUTS?!
YOU'RE BLAMING IT ON THOSE MISSILES?
WAIT, DON'T RUN AWAY!
WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M BEING NUTS.
I'M JUST GONNA STAND HERE TO GET A TASTE OF IT.
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE ...


SHOOSH
SHOOSH
DAMNED IF IT DOES!
THIS IS STUPID.
WE COULD BE STANDING HERE ALL DAY.
TED'S GOODS
I BET
THE WHIRLING VACUUM FROM THE MISSILE LAUNCH WILL STRIKE ALONG THIS LINE.

ROAR
THEY'VE LAUNCHED IT. SO WHERE ARE THOSE WEASELS?
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
KRASH

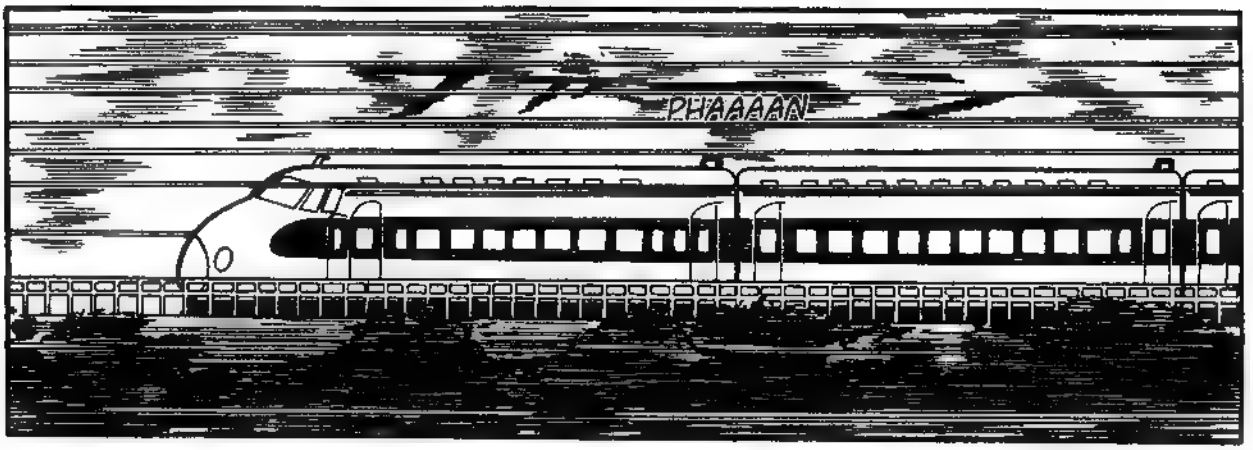
UNNGH!
GASH
KRAK
UGH...
ST OFFICE
AIEEE
CRUMBLE
KRAK

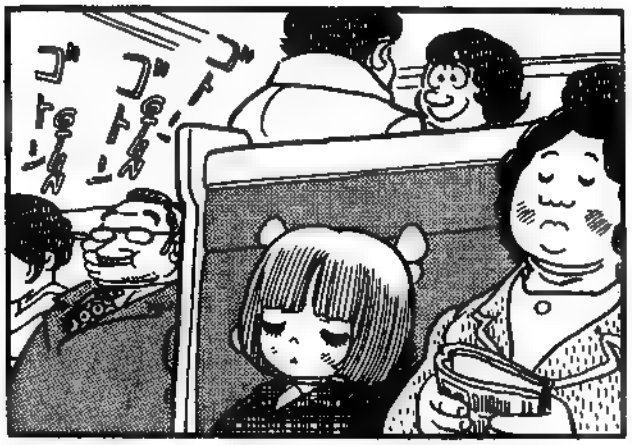
GIVE ME MY COAT!
DO NOT TOUCH HIM !!
Y-YES.
GET ME FOLKS WITH TYPE B BLOOD!
HE'S TYPE B.
GO LOOK INSTEAD FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE HIM BLOOD.
AMATEUR MEDDLING CAN CAUSE MASSIVE BLEEDING.
STOP BLABBING AND GO!
HOW WILL YOU PROVIDE FIRST AID WITH ONE ARM?
HE'S BEEN SLICED ALL THE WAY TO THE PERI-CARDIUM!

J-JUST ATTEND TO YOUR OWN ARM.
DOC, AM I GONNA DIE ?
HARD TO SAY ...
DON'T BE A FOOL. LUCKILY, I JUST GOT IT IN THE ARM, WHILE YOUR HEART'S ABOUT TO TEAR!
I'M DONE FOR. YOU'RE A CRUCIAL WITNESS. I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO DIE...
SO THE MISSILE'S THE PERP?
I'M SORRY IT'S NOT A CULPRIT YOU CAN HANDCUFF.
OW
OUCH...
DAMN!
THEN WE'LL WAIT FOR THE AMBU-LANCE.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN ...

HEY, DOCTOR!
SLUMP
THAT OUGHT TO DO ...
OKAY, ONE AT A TIME. YOU, LIE DOWN.
THESE GUYS ARE TYPE B.
SAVING AN UNDERPAID COP DOESN'T EARN YOU A RED CENT, DOC.
WOEEE
IF THEY WON'T PAY, I'LL PUT THOSE MISSILES BEHIND BARS. HEH HEH!
?
I DON'T WANT CHUMP CHANGE.
SOME CONDO-LENCE MONEY.
THE BASE HAS SENT YOU ...
I'D SAY TEN MILLION DOLLARS.
APART FROM MY FEES, THERE'S THE MATTER OF REPARATIONS, FOR ALL THE VICTIMS.

PINOKO GOES WEST


PHAAAAN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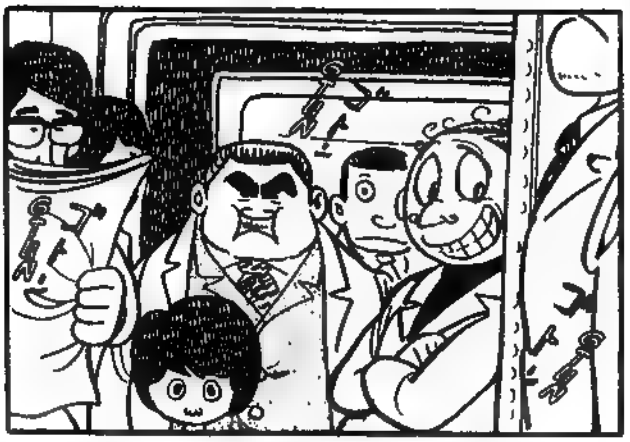
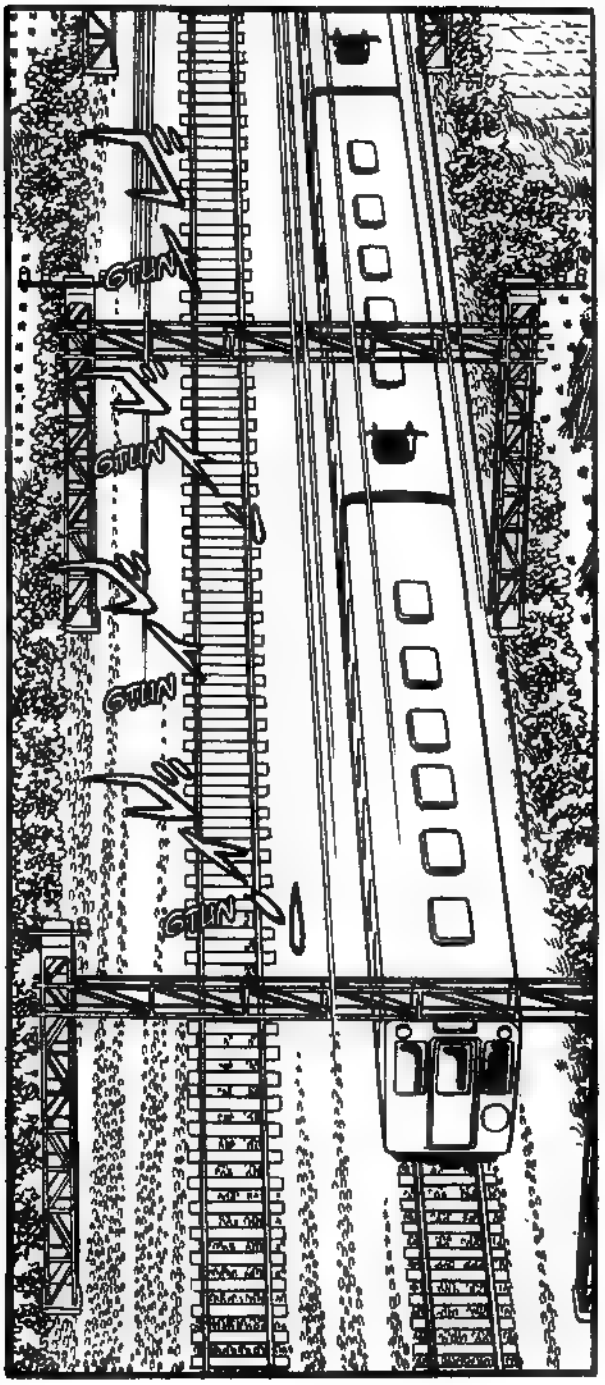


MISS, ARE YOU TRAVELING ALONE?


GTUN
GTUN
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ASK ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, OKAY?
...
...
HOW IMPRESSIVE! WHERE TO?
YESH.
YOU KNOW I'M SHY.
NO, YOU FIRST, SWEETIE...
YOU EAT FIRST, DEAR.
...
FSSSS
STEP
GTNK
GTLN
GTLN
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DASH

2
3
TUM
TUM
ONE, TWO, FWEE ...
DON'T YOU HAVE A SMALLER BILL?
ONE DUMPLING BENTO AND TEA. HERE!
HUFF
PUFF
HOP
NNNNNG
BNNNNNG
THERE YOU ARE!

EEEK! ACK!
SPLASH
WE NEARLY LEFT WITH-OUT YOU!
I'D HAVE BOUGHT LUNCH FOR YOU.
ACCHON BURIKE
THAT WAS HOT ...
I HAVE A DAUGHTER YOUR AGE. SHE'S 8!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU. THAT'D BE BETTER, YES?
BUT SOMETIMES A GROWNUP CAN HELP...
I'M IMPRESSED YOU'RE TRAVELING ALONE.
SPLAT
WHY TELL ME SUCH LIES? YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY 7 OR 8. ...
FOO-EY!
I'M 20 YEARS OLD !!

WE'VE ALREADY BEEN TO MANY. THEY COULDN'T CURE HIM.
IT'S CALLED RICKETS. HE SHOULD BE TREATED AT A HOSPITAL.
...
SINCE YOU KNOW SO MUCH, YOU CAN LEAVE.
I KNOW THAT. I GIVE HIM 100K UNITS A DAY.
IT'S CAUSED BY A SHORTAGE OF VITAMIN D. HIS BONE GROWTH IS HAMPERED. MAKE SURE HE'S GETTING ENOUGH VITAMIN D.

WE'VE ALSO TRIED CALCIUM, AND PHOSPHORUS SUPPRESSANTS. NOTHING'S WORKED.
BUT... THE HOSPITAL DOCTORS SAID HIS CASE IS VITAMIN D-RESISTANT. THAT CURE DOESN'T WORK FOR HIM.
THEN CURE HIM ON YOUR OWN!
WE LOVE OUR CHILD! WE DID A LOT OF OUR OWN RESEARCH.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.
I'M NOT FOND OF AMATEURS WHO FLAUNT THEIR PIECEMEAL MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.
IF WE COULD DO THAT, WE WOULDN'T SEEK OUT DOCTORS.
LET ME BE FRANK.

DOCTOR, WE NEED YOUR HELP. I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU.
SHUSH, HON !
HOW RUDE OF YOU !
HIS BONES WILL JUST CURVE AGAIN.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HIS BONES HAVE FINISHED TAKING SHAPE. ONLY SURGERY CAN RESTORE HIS FORM.
HE'S ALREADY FIFTEEN.
YOU SURE DO YOUR HOME-WORK.
I KNOW YOU'VE CURED FIVE CHILDREN WITH RICKETS THROUGH YOUR SURGERY!
DOCTOR, PLEASE DO IT!
TILL I CURE HIM!
BUT DON'T YOU EVER BUTT IN...
I'LL CURE YOUR SON FOR TWENTY MILLION.

FWAP
FWAP
...
LET'S PLAY!
?
?
FWAP
...
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!
WANT SOME GUM?

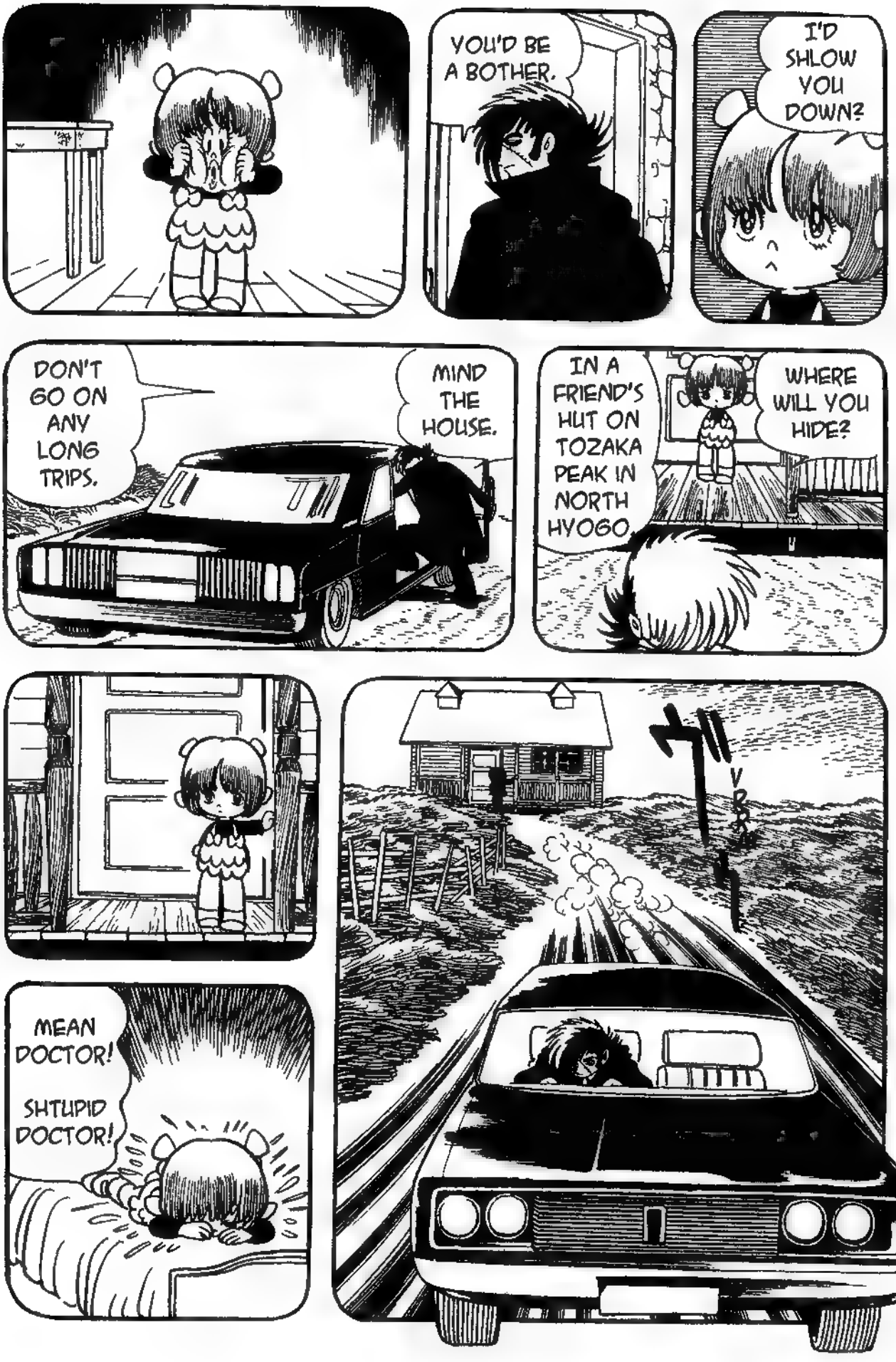
WAAH
TAKE IT BACK!
SHE TOOK MY GU-M!
YOU WANT MORE?
WAAH
HERE, CHOCO-LATE.
DEAL ?
TAKE THIS GUM TOO!
NOW GO AWAY, ALL WIGHT?
TAKE THIS JOOSH.
I'LL GIVE YOU GUM SO LET'S PLAY.
TSCHK.
WHATTA HARVEST !

YUKKO, HE'S AT IT AGAIN!
WAAH
THERE'S NO QUICK CURE. YOU HAVE TO BE PATIENT.
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR. HALF A YEAR, DOCTOR, AND NO PROGRESS! IF YOU CAN'T CURE HIM, JUST SAY SO. I'D TAKE HIM TO A DIFFERENT HOSPITAL!
I'M TIRED OF HEARING THAT !!
AS YOU WISH.
I'LL JUDGE THAT THE CASE WAS BEYOND YOU.
IF ONE YEAR'S NOT ENOUGH,
I'LL WAIT ANOTHER HALF-YEAR.

A WEAL TONGUE-LASHING ...
POOR DOCTOR ...
CAN'T YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT?
YOU GAVE HIM THE WRONG TREAT-MENT!
MY SON IS JUST GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
I CHECKED UP ON YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE A LICENSE. I'VE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE!
POOR YOU.
I PAID 20 MILLION YEN FOR YOUR USELESS OPERATIONS! THIS IS A CON!
SHUT UP!!
GET OUT OF HERE. RIGHT NOW!

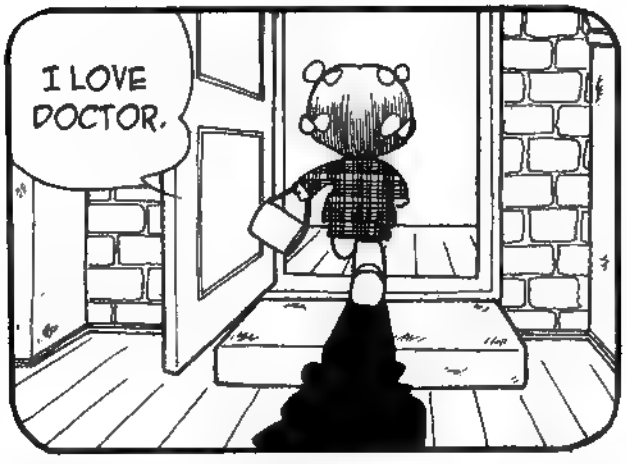
I'LL SUE YOU AS A PHONY SURGEON WHO CHEATS PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR MONEY!
I WILL SUE YOU.
IF I MUST,
ジャーン
RRRRING
THAT'S ONE REST-LESS DAD !
POLICE. WE'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU.
DOCTOR ...
I'M IN TROUBLE, PINOKO ...
YES. COME TO CRIMINAL INVESTI-GATIONS.
THERE'S BEEN A CHARGE.

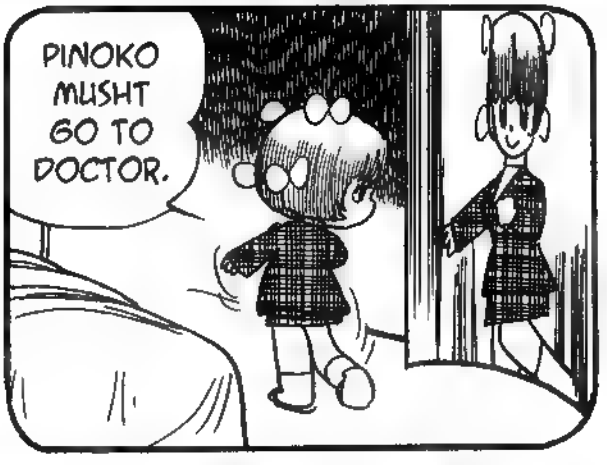
OH, WELL.
THAT MAN WILL DROP ALL HIS CHARGES IN TIME. I NEED TO HIDE TILL THEN.
I'LL HIGH-TAIL IT.
A CRIME RAP? NO, THANK YOU.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AWAY!
DON'T BE. I'LL BE BACK.
I'LL BE WOWWIED SHICK!
NOOO !!
YOU STAY HERE.
NOPE.
I'LL COME WITH YOU!


YOU'D BE A BOTHER.
I'D SHLOW YOU DOWN?
DON'T GO ON ANY LONG TRIPS.
MIND THE HOUSE.
IN A FRIEND'S HUT ON TOZAKA PEAK IN NORTH HYOGO.
WHERE WILL YOU HIDE?
MEAN DOCTOR!
SHTUPID DOCTOR!

NOT TELLING US IS A CRIME!

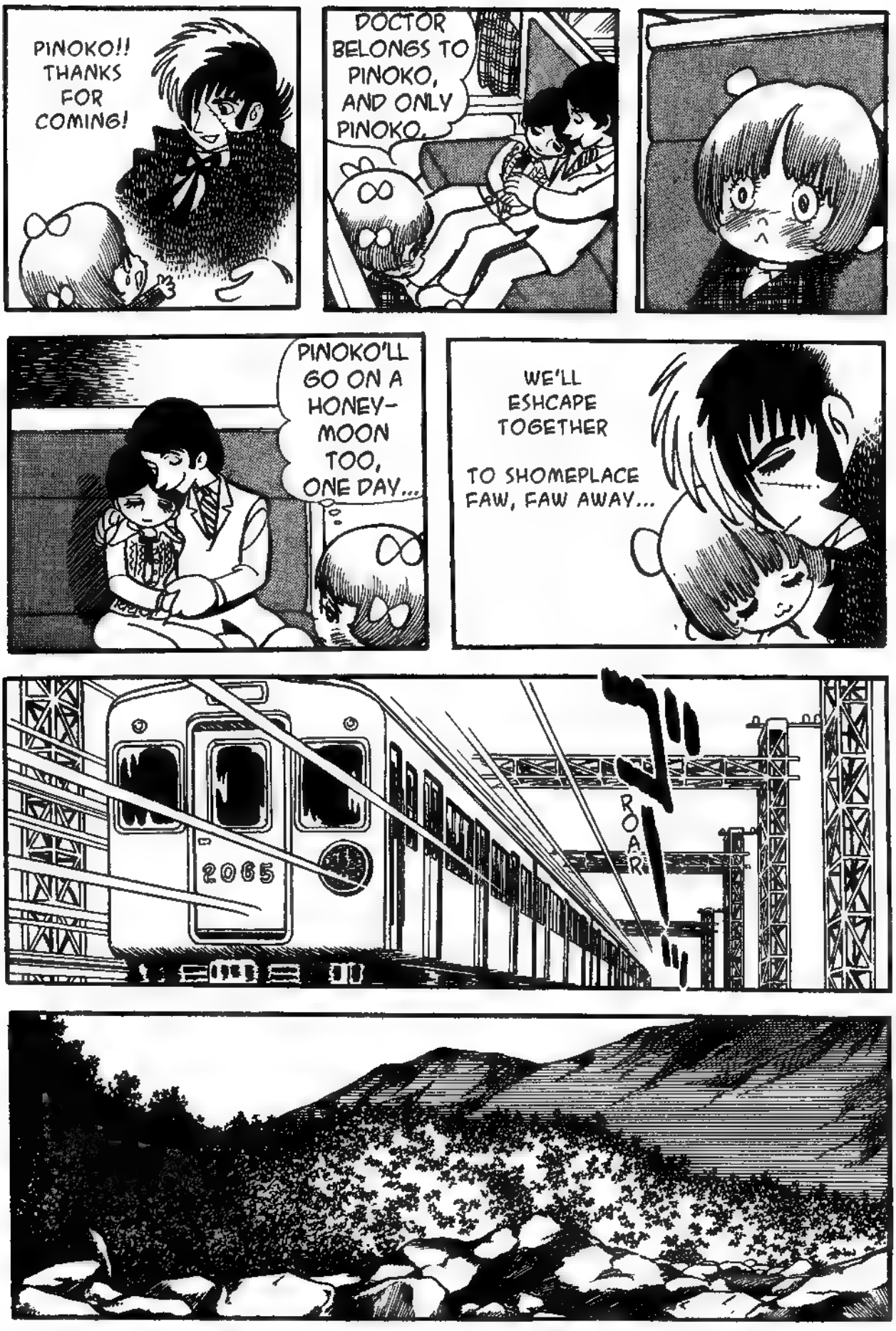
I DON'T KNOW! HE'S NOT HERE. JUSHT GO AWAY.
MAY I ASK YOU WHERE DR. BLACK JACK IS?


I LOVE DOCTOR.


PINOKO MUSHT GO TO DOCTOR.

WHISTLE

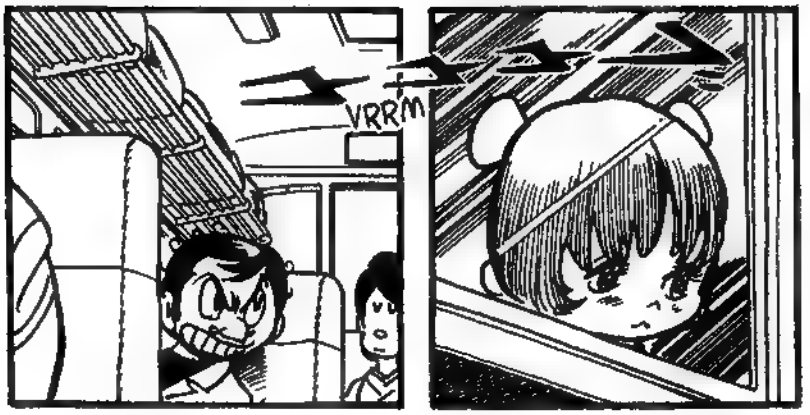
GTUN
GTUN

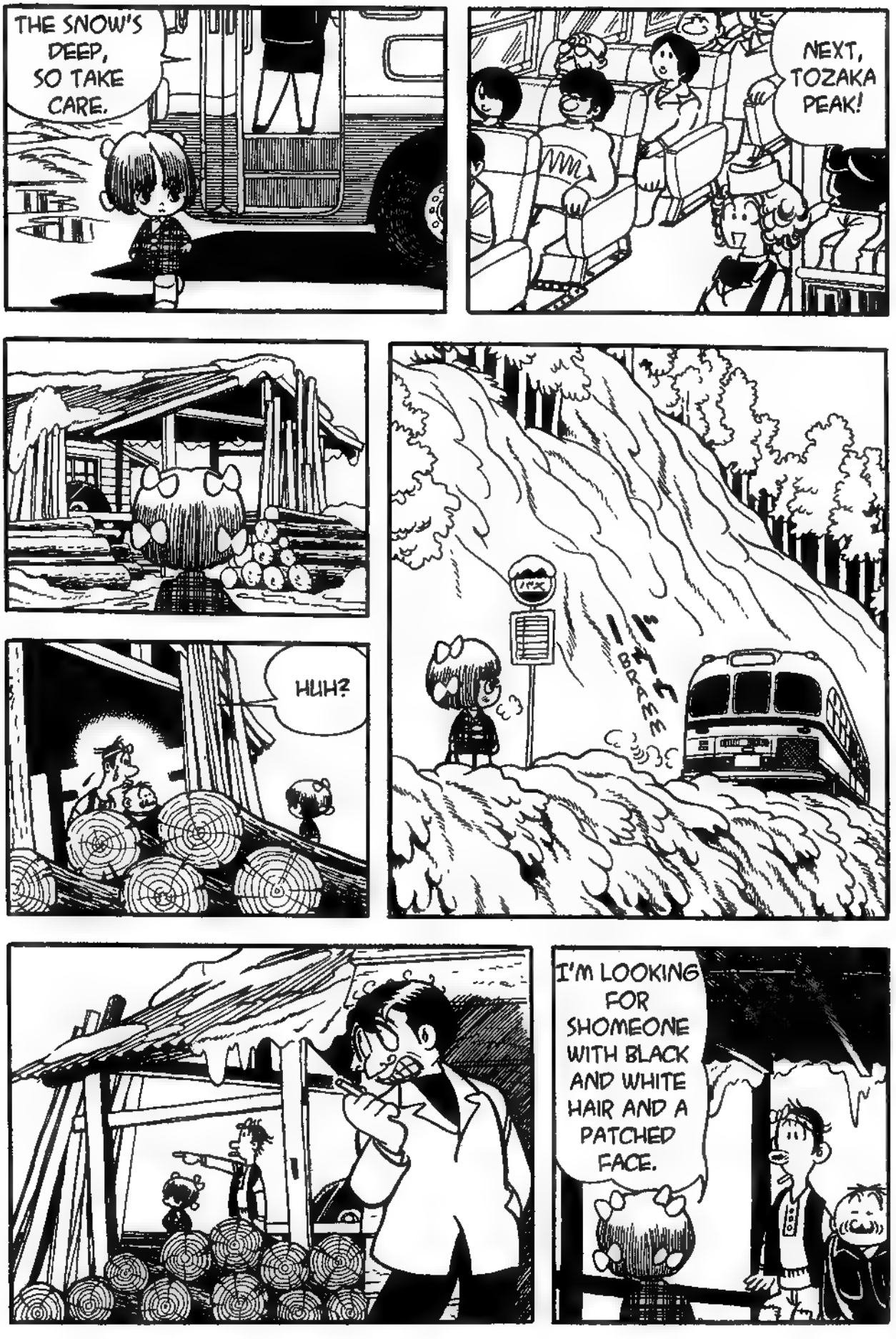

PINOKO!! THANKS FOR COMING!
DOCTOR BELONGS TO PINOKO, AND ONLY PINOKO.
PINOKO'LL GO ON A HONEY-MOON TOO, ONE DAY...
WE'LL ESHCAPE TOGETHER
TO SHOMEPLACE FAW, FAW AWAY...
2065
ROAR

VRRR

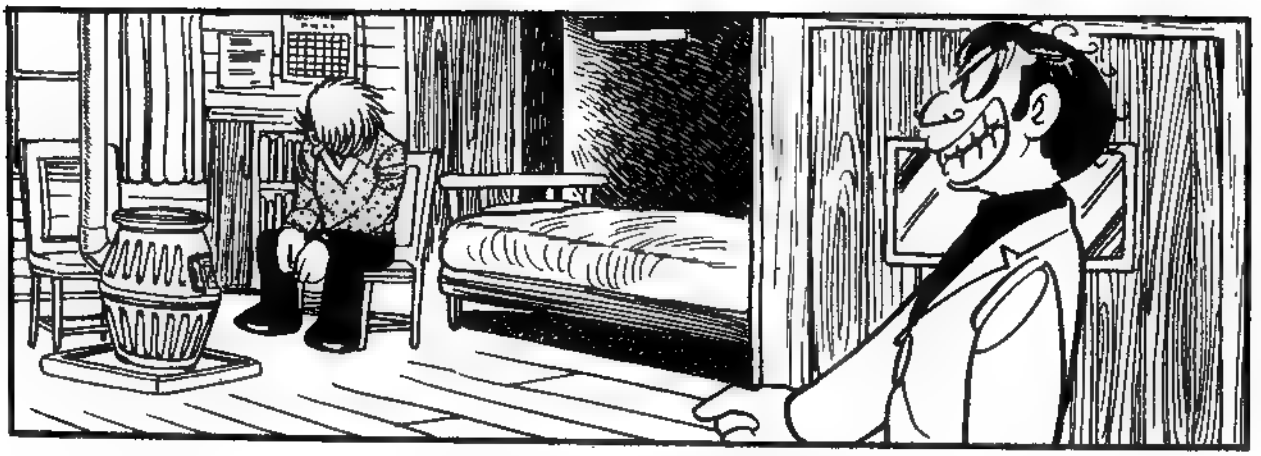
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE.
YOU WANNA HIKE IN THIS SNOW, MISS? IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO THINK IT OVER.

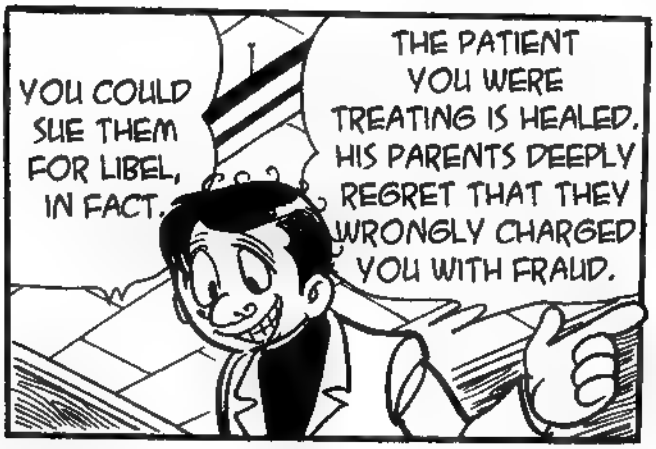
YOU'RE REALLY ON YOUR OWN? WOW!
YEAH, YEAH, GIMME MY TICKET.

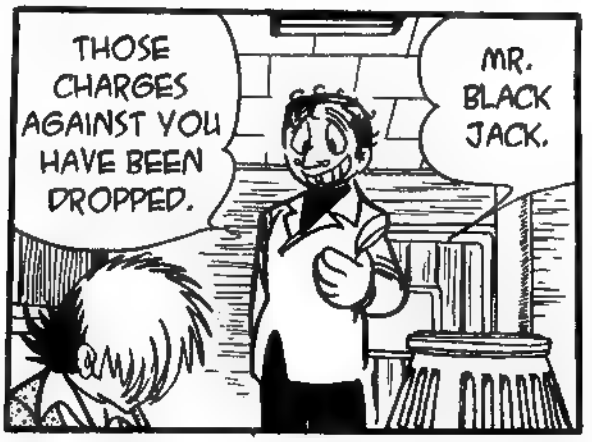

VRRM


THE SNOW'S DEEP, SO TAKE CARE.
NEXT, TOZAKA PEAK!
HUH?
BRRRR

ISHIKURA, METROPOL SECTION TWO HERE.
WADA-YAMA POLICE STATION ?
LEND ME YOUR PHONE.
WHAT ?!
SEND UP PATROL CARS TO TOZAKA PEAK.
I'VE LOCATED THE FRAUD SUSPECT.
WOBBLE
DIP
UHH ...
"PANT"
"PANT"
"PANT"
I'LL SHEE DOCTOR SHOON... PINOKO CAN'T DIE TILL SHE DOES.




YOU COULD SUE THEM FOR LIBEL, IN FACT.
THE PATIENT YOU WERE TREATING IS HEALED. HIS PARENTS DEEPLY REGRET THAT THEY WRONGLY CHARGED YOU WITH FRAUD.


THOSE CHARGES AGAINST YOU HAVE BEEN DROPPED.
MR. BLACK JACK.

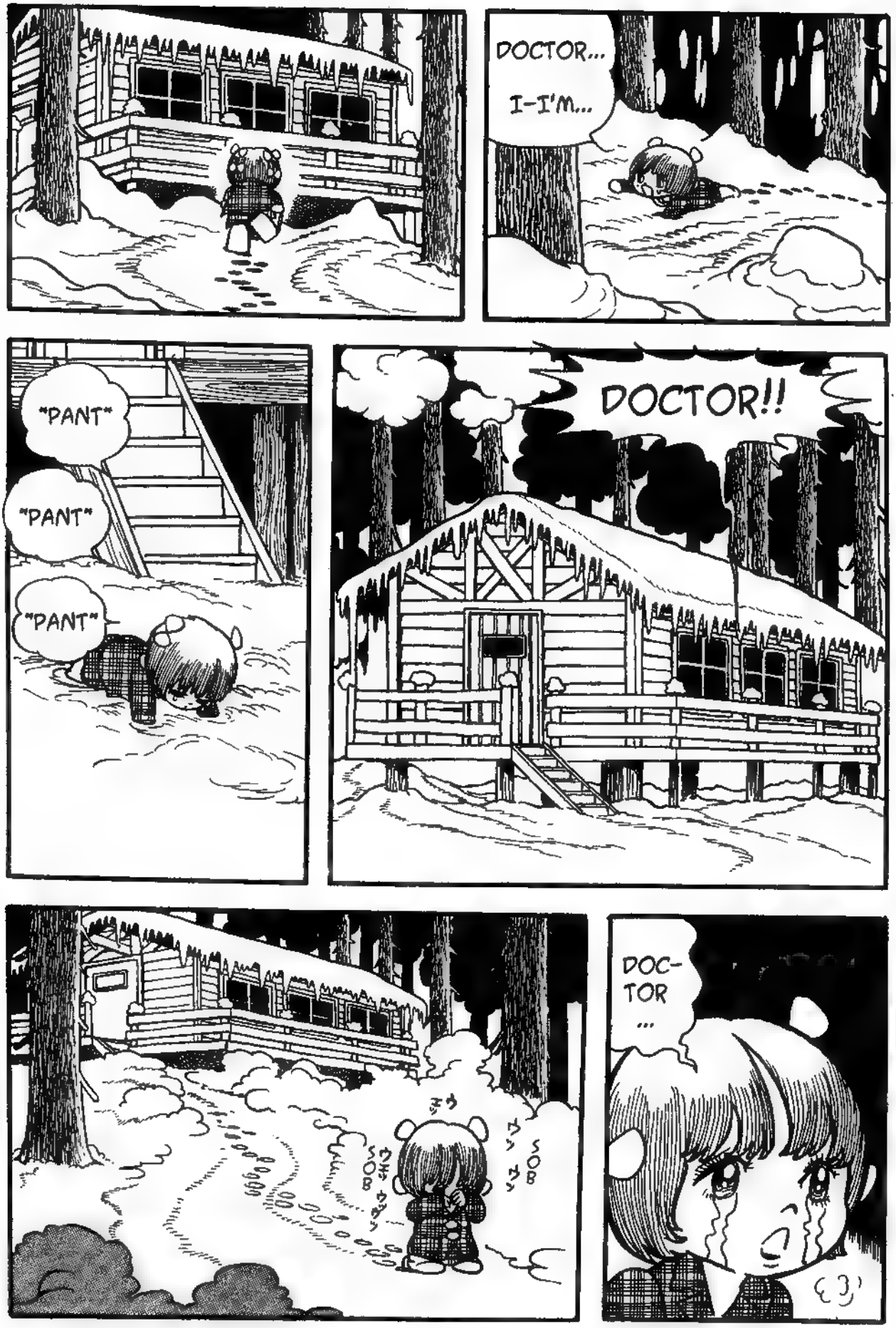
WELL,

I TAKE THIS CRAP ALL THE TIME...

FORGET ABOUT THAT.

I'LL BE FINE.
MAY I SHOW YOU A SHORTCUT?

LET ME GET GOING BEFORE IT SNOWS.

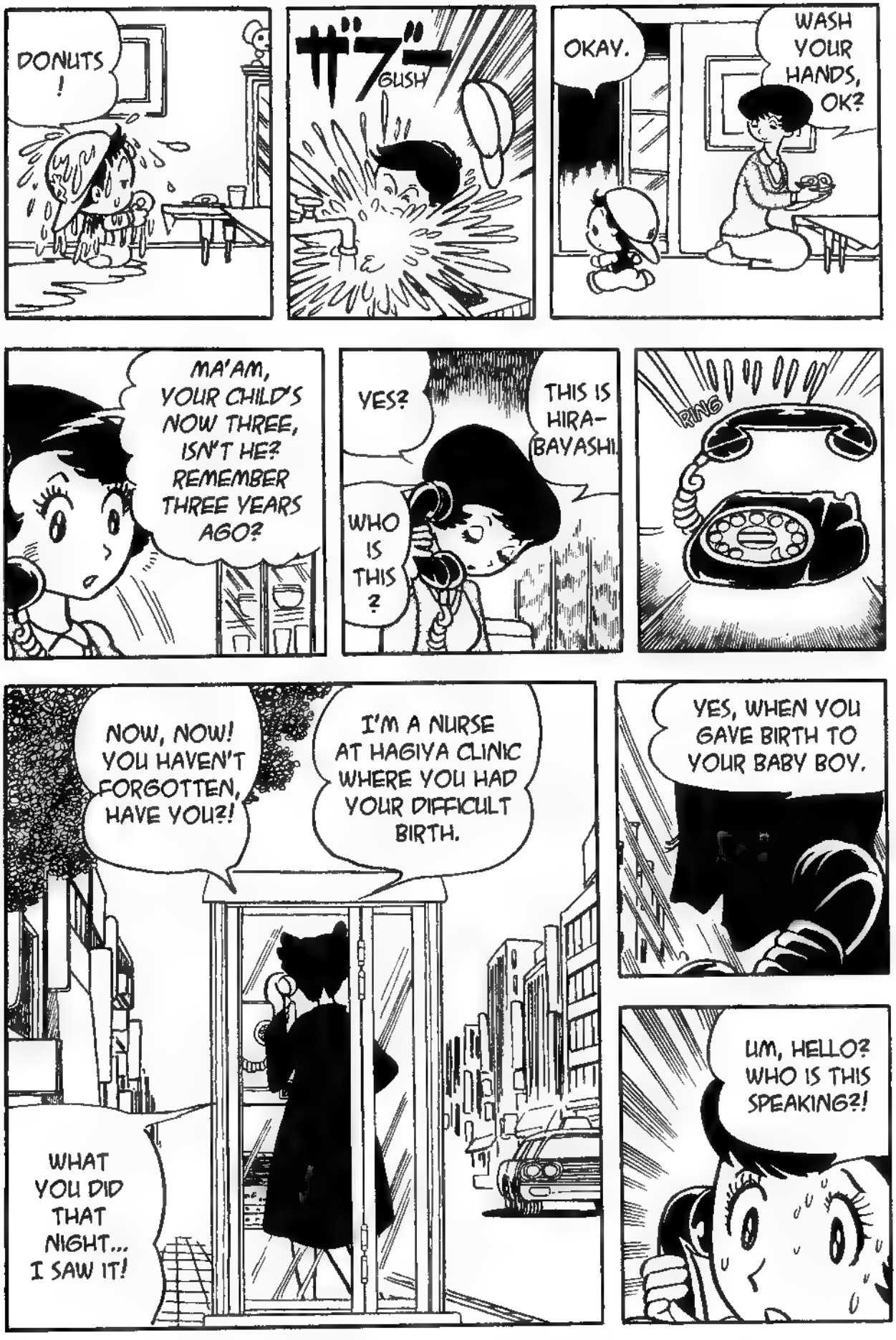

DOCTOR...
I-I'M...
"PANT"
"PANT"
"PANT"
DOCTOR!!
SOB
SOB
DOC-
TOR
...

DOCTOR HASH FINALLY GONE SHOMEWHERE FAW FAW AWAY THAT I DON'T KNOW.
DOC TOR 2!
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE 2!
I TOLD YOU I'D COME HOME SO STAY PUT!
DOC TOR !!
A DETECTIVE FOLLOWED YOU ALL THE WAY HERE! DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?
...

NOW WEAR THIS. IT'S ABOUT TO SNOW.

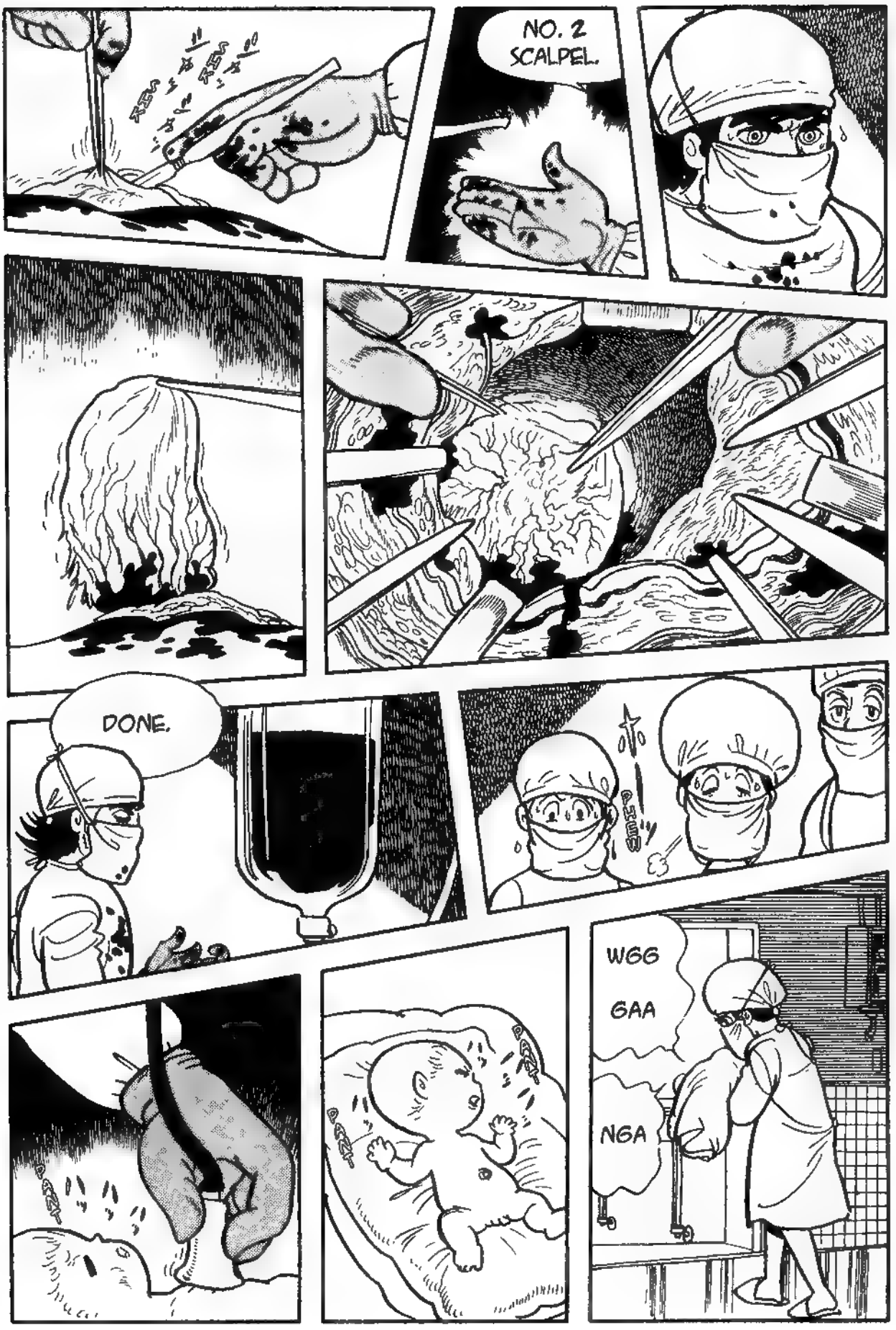
SWAPPED

LOOK! PLEASE LOOK AT MY KITE!
WOW, JUN! YOU SAILED IT ON YOUR OWN?
YOUR SON JUN IS QUITE A BOY!
YUP, I DID IT ALONE!
NO ONE HELPED YOU, EH?
FWAM
IS IT SNACK TIME, MOM?

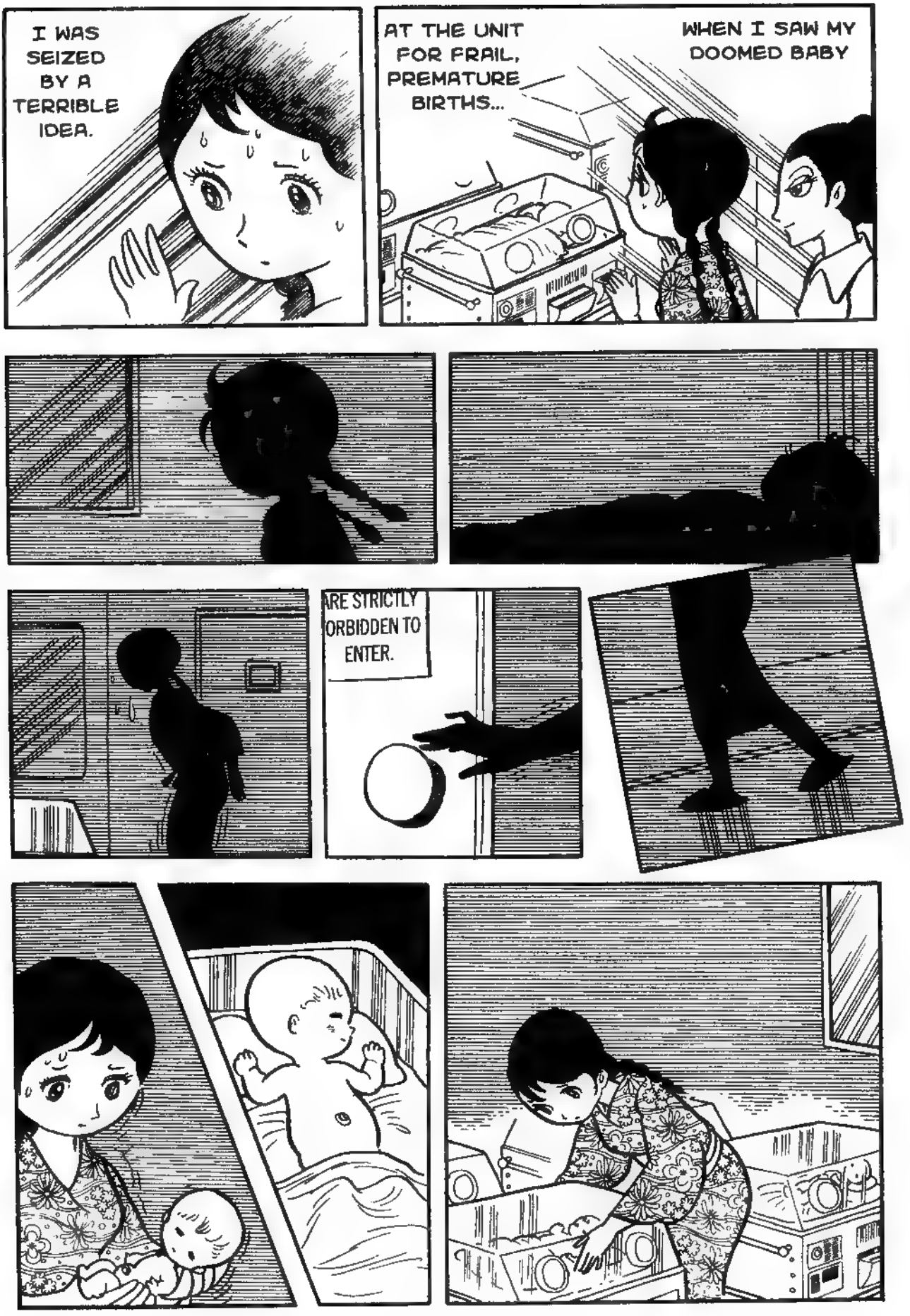

DONUTS !
ガブー GUSH
OKAY.
WASH YOUR HANDS, OK?
MA'AM, YOUR CHILD'S NOW THREE, ISN'T HE? REMEMBER THREE YEARS AGO?
YES?
THIS IS HIRA-BAYASHI.
WHO IS THIS ?
RING
NOW, NOW! YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, HAVE YOU?!
I'M A NURSE AT HAGIYA CLINIC WHERE YOU HAD YOUR DIFFICULT BIRTH.
WHAT YOU DID THAT NIGHT... I SAW IT!
YES, WHEN YOU GAVE BIRTH TO YOUR BABY BOY.
UM, HELLO? WHO IS THIS SPEAKING?!

IF YOU'RE REALLY HAVING A HARD TIME REMEMBERING WHAT YOU DID...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? WHEN YOU DO REMEMBER, I'D LIKE SOME HUSH MONEY. SAY, TEN MILLION YEN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN SOON.
GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT, DEAR.
HA HA HA
YOU CAN READ ABOUT IT.
I'LL TELL A NEWS-PAPER ABOUT THAT NIGHT.
YES ?
IT'S NOTHING ...
THANKS FOR THE SNACK !
ARE YOU OKAY, MOM?
OH...
...
THUD

OH, GOD ...
WHY NOW ...?
OKAY ...
GOOD BOY. NOW GO PLAY SOME MORE.
3 YEARS AGO
I UNDERWENT A DIFFICULT OPERATION FOR TOTAL PLACENTA PREVIA. I BELIEVE THE SURGEON WAS CALLED BLACK JACK.
BUT BOTH OF US CAME OUT OF IT FINE!
HE HAD WARNED ME THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TO SACRIFICE THE BABY.
YOUNG THOUGH HE WAS, HE DID A VERY GOOD JOB.


NO. 2 SCALPEL.
DONE.
SMILE
WGG
GAA
NGA

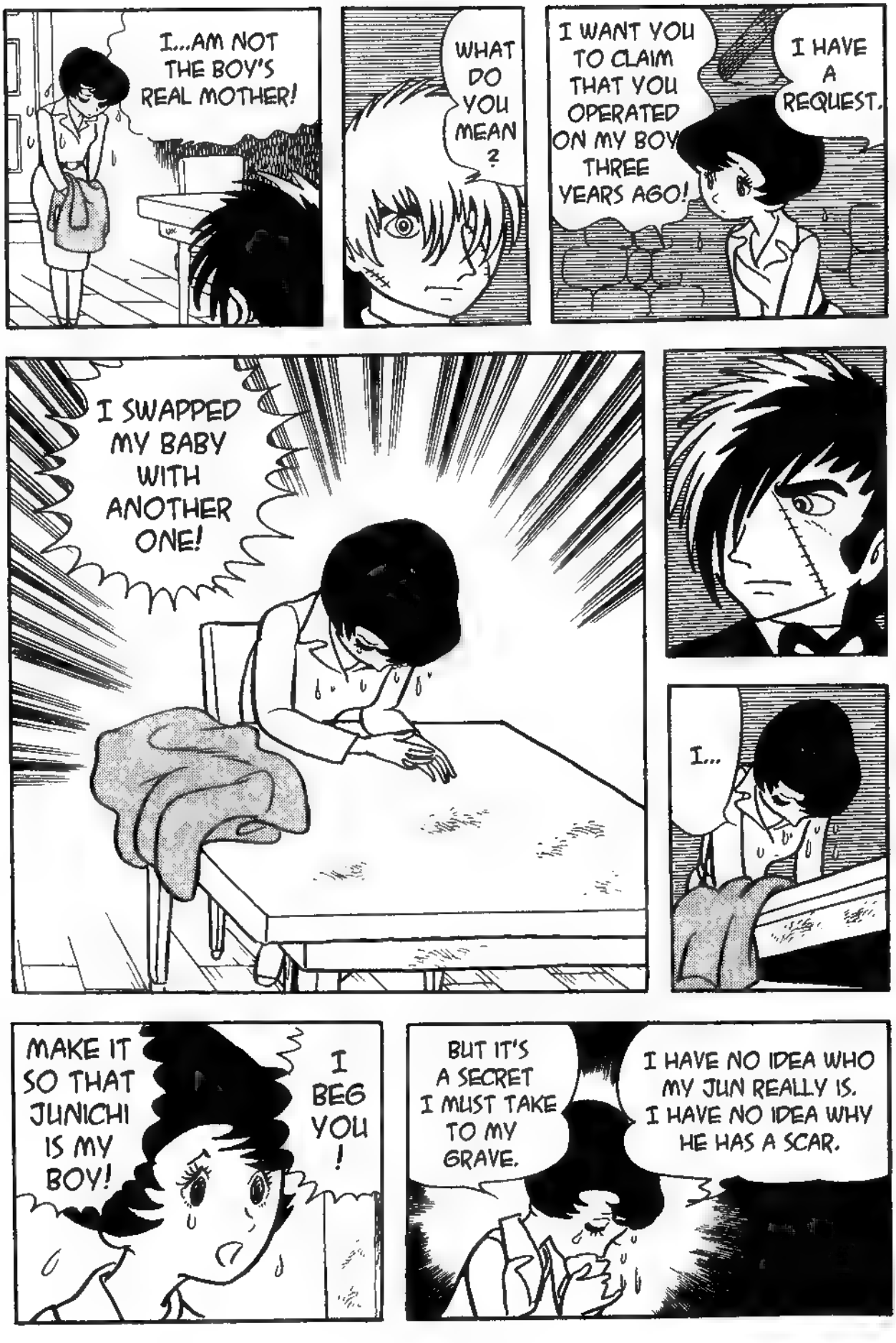
I'M AFRAID HE'LL DIE WITHIN A YEAR.
HE HAS LETTERER-SIWE DISEASE, A TYPE OF GRANULOMA.
THAT NIGHT, AS I LAY DOZING DUE TO THE DRUGS, I OVERHEARD A CONVERSATION BETWEEN A NURSE AND A YOUNG DOCTOR!
FOR TEN DAYS, I CRIED AND CRIED.
MY BOY ...
CHEER UP. SAY, WHY DON'T WE GO GIVE HIM A LOOK?
I-IT'S NOTHING ...
MISSUS, WHY ARE YOU CRYING,
"SOB" "SOB"
WHEN YOUR BABY'S FINE?


I WAS SEIZED BY A TERRIBLE IDEA.
AT THE UNIT FOR FRAIL, PREMATURE BIRTHS...
WHEN I SAW MY DOOMED BABY
ARE STRICTLY ORBIDDEN TO ENTER.

MY NEW BABY WAS AS DEAR TO ME...
AS IF I'D GIVEN BIRTH TO IT...
I SOFTLY HUGGED MY BABY, WHO WASN'T MINE, AS I LEFT THE HOSPITAL.
THE DEVIL MUST HAVE SEDUCED ME ...

JUN WAS MY AND MY HUSBAND'S TREASURE.
A YEAR PASSED, THEN TWO.
NO— MORE!
NOTICED SOME-THING ABOUT JUN.
MY HUS-BAND
BUT IN THE 3RD YEAR
I DIDN'T NOTICE IT WHEN WE LEFT THE HOSPITAL. WHEN DID HE GET IT?
IT WASN'T THERE WHEN HE WAS BORN. I'M SURE OF IT.
ERIKO! WHAT'S THIS SCAR?
BUT WHEN I CHECKED LATER, IT WAS A SCAR.
MY HUSBAND WAS SATISFIED,
IT'S SOME BRUISE, NOT A SCAR.
SO? WHEN DID HE GET IT?

WHAT IF THIS GETS OUT OF HAND WHILE HE'S GONE?
MY HUSBAND'S WORKING OVERSEAS RIGHT NOW...
I WON'T LET YOU GO, WHAT-EVER THEY TRY!
YOU'RE MAMA'S BOY, AREN'T YOU? YOUR MAMA'S DARLING BOY.
?
I'M ERIKO HIRABAYASHI. YOU DELIVERED MY BABY THREE YEARS AGO.
DOCTOR, DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
MAYBE I DID.
THREE YEARS AGO?


I...AM NOT THE BOY'S REAL MOTHER!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I HAVE A REQUEST.
I WANT YOU TO CLAIM THAT YOU OPERATED ON MY BOY THREE YEARS AGO!
I SWAPPED MY BABY WITH ANOTHER ONE!
I...
MAKE IT SO THAT JUNICHI IS MY BOY!
I BEG YOU!
BUT IT'S A SECRET I MUST TAKE TO MY GRAVE.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO MY JUN REALLY IS. I HAVE NO IDEA WHY HE HAS A SCAR.

ONE OF THE NURSES FROM BACK THEN.
I'M BEING BLACKMAILED !!
HAH, IS THAT SO?
BY WHOM ?
IS IT NOT ?
THAT'S AWFULLY SELFISH,
...
GOOD DAY TO YOU.
DOC-TOR !!
LET HER DO HER THING.
I SAY ...
YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF.
I CAN'T PAY YOU SO MUCH!
MRS. HIRABAYASHI, DON'T YOU EVER WONDER WHERE YOUR REAL BABY IS? NOT THAT IT ISN'T...
TOO LATE! YOU CAN BUY MY SILENCE FOR JUST 10 MILLION YEN.

I'M GOING TO THE POLICE.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU'LL BE,
YOU CAN'T, OR WON'T?

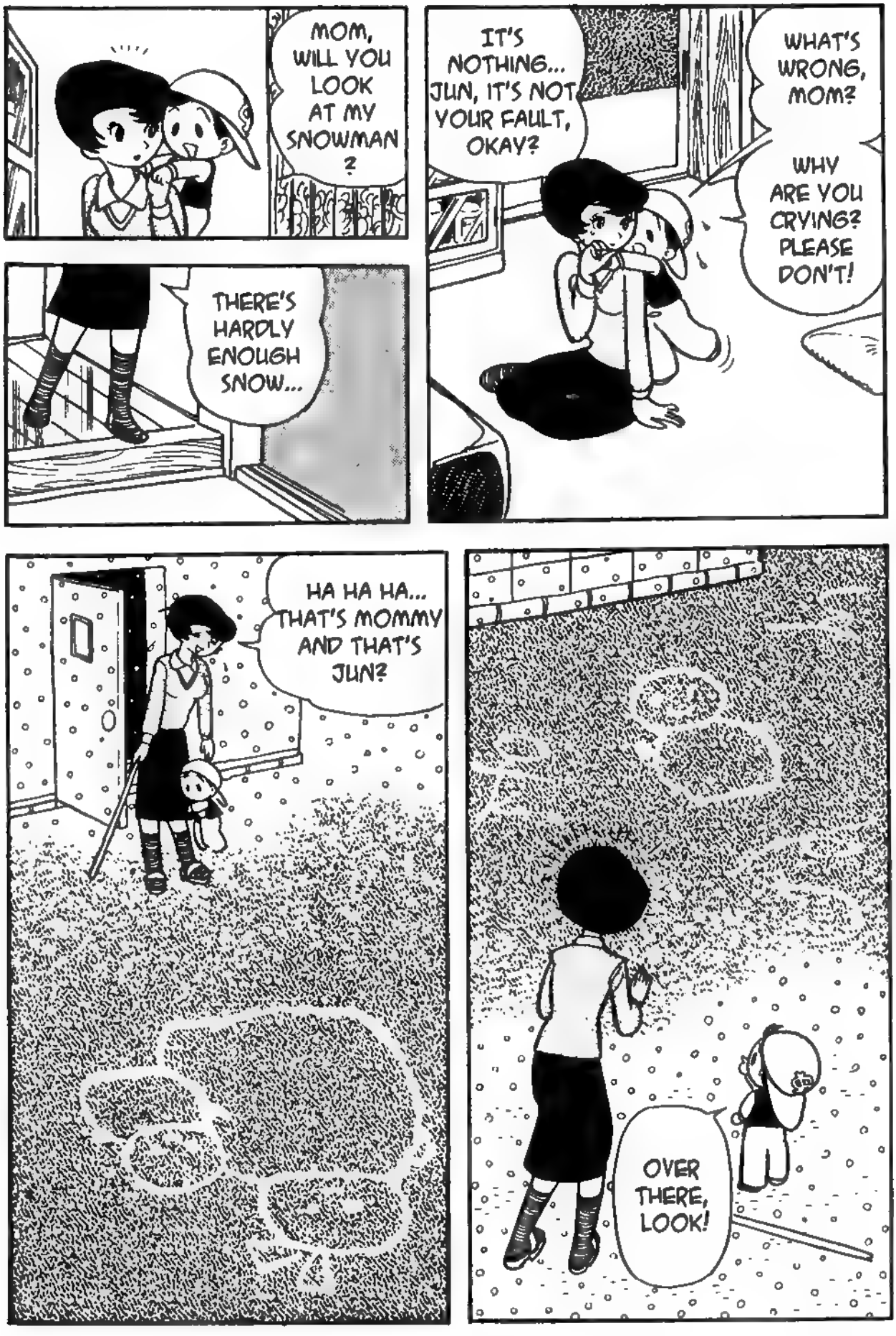
WE COULD HAVE YOUR BLOOD TYPES CHECKED.
AND
I'M A WITNESS TO WHAT YOU DID.

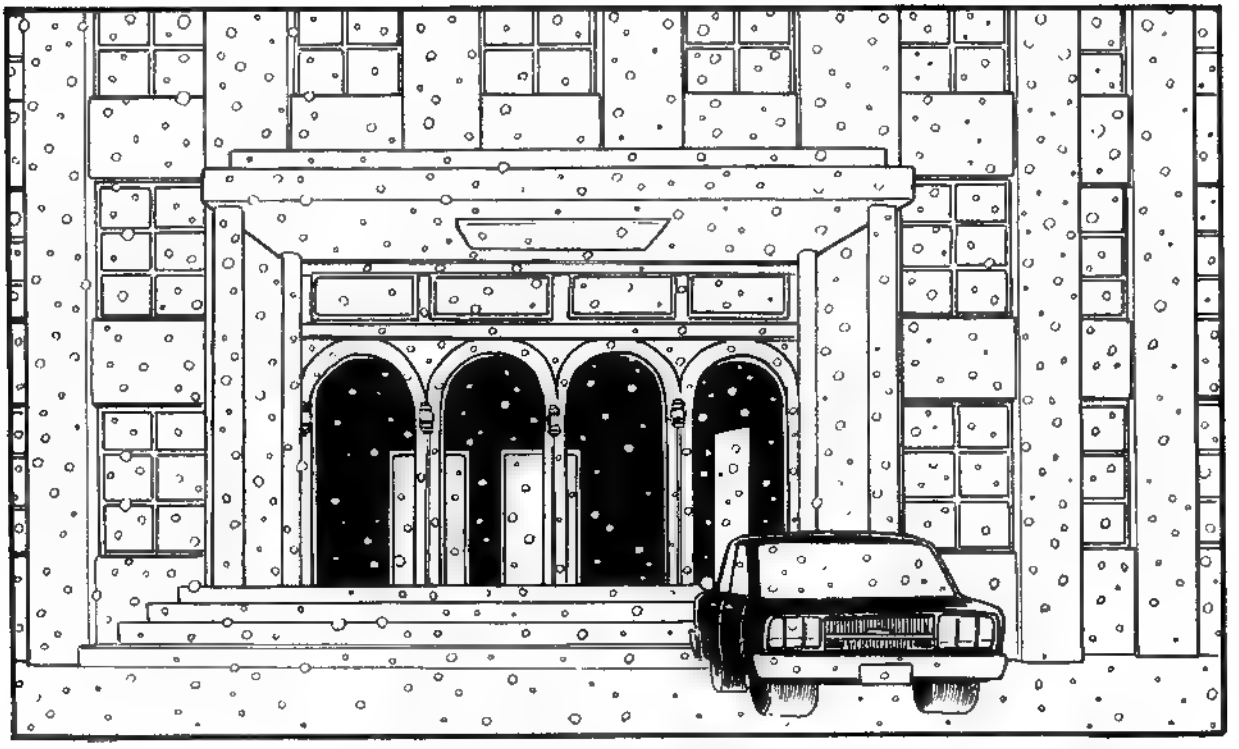
STOP!!

YOUR HUSBAND'S COMPANY CAN MAKE HIM A LOAN.
NO, I WANT IT NOW.

I'LL TALK TO MY HUSBAND... IT'LL TAKE US TIME, BUT WE'LL PAY YOU THE MONEY!

JUNICHI IS MY BOY! YOU WON'T TEAR US APART!
FORGET IT! GO TO THE COPS! CHECK WHATEVER YOU WANT!


MOM, WILL YOU LOOK AT MY SNOWMAN?
THERE'S HARDLY ENOUGH SNOW...
IT'S NOTHING... JUN, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, OKAY?
WHAT'S WRONG, MOM?
WHY ARE YOU CRYING? PLEASE DON'T!
HA HA HA... THAT'S MOMMY AND THAT'S JUN?
OVER THERE, LOOK!

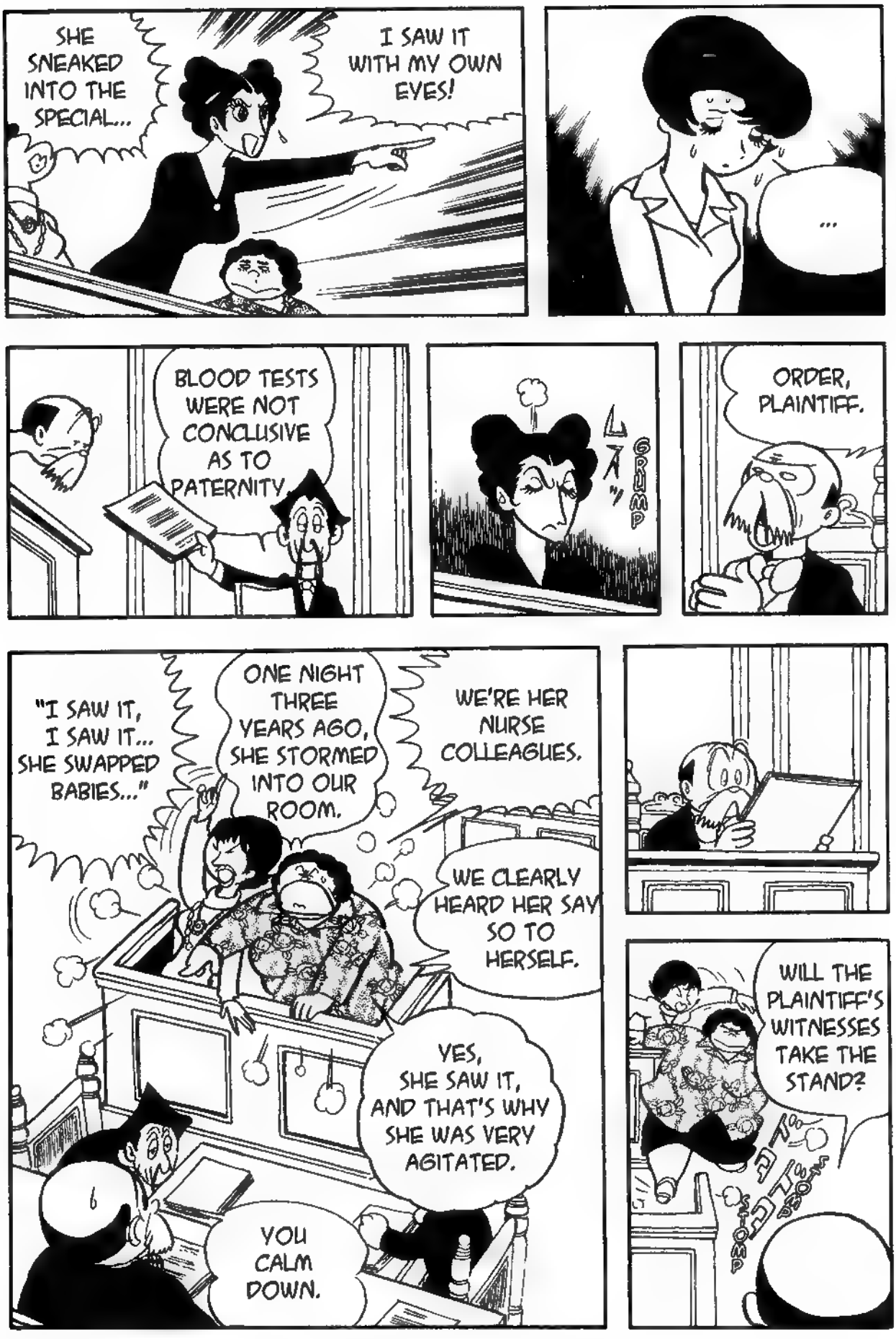


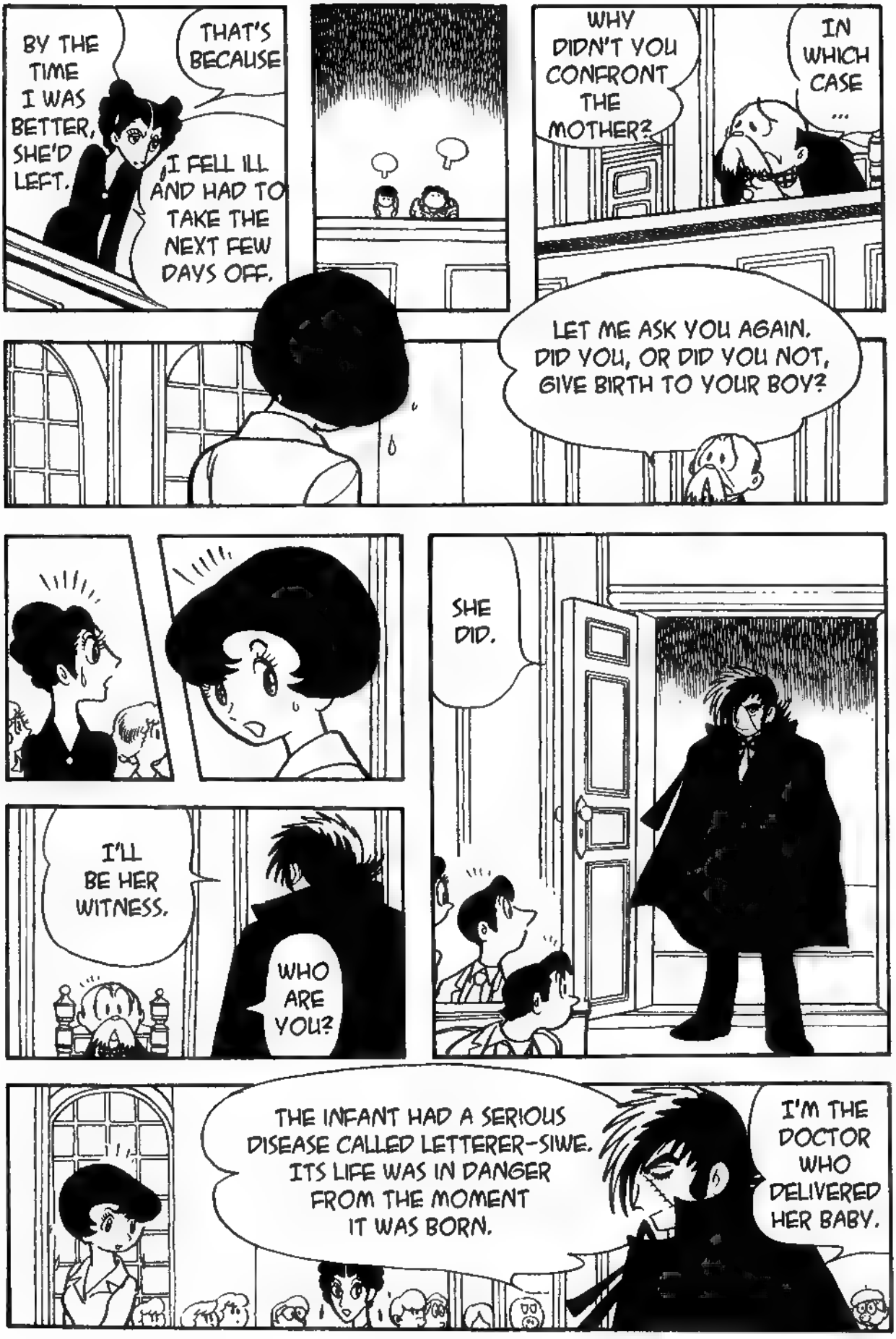
DEFENDANT ERIKO HIRABAYASHI,

DID YOU SWITCH YOUR BABY WITH ANOTHER IN THE SPECIAL CARE UNIT ONE WEEK AFTER YOU GAVE BIRTH?

AT HAGIYA CLINIC...
THREE YEARS AGO

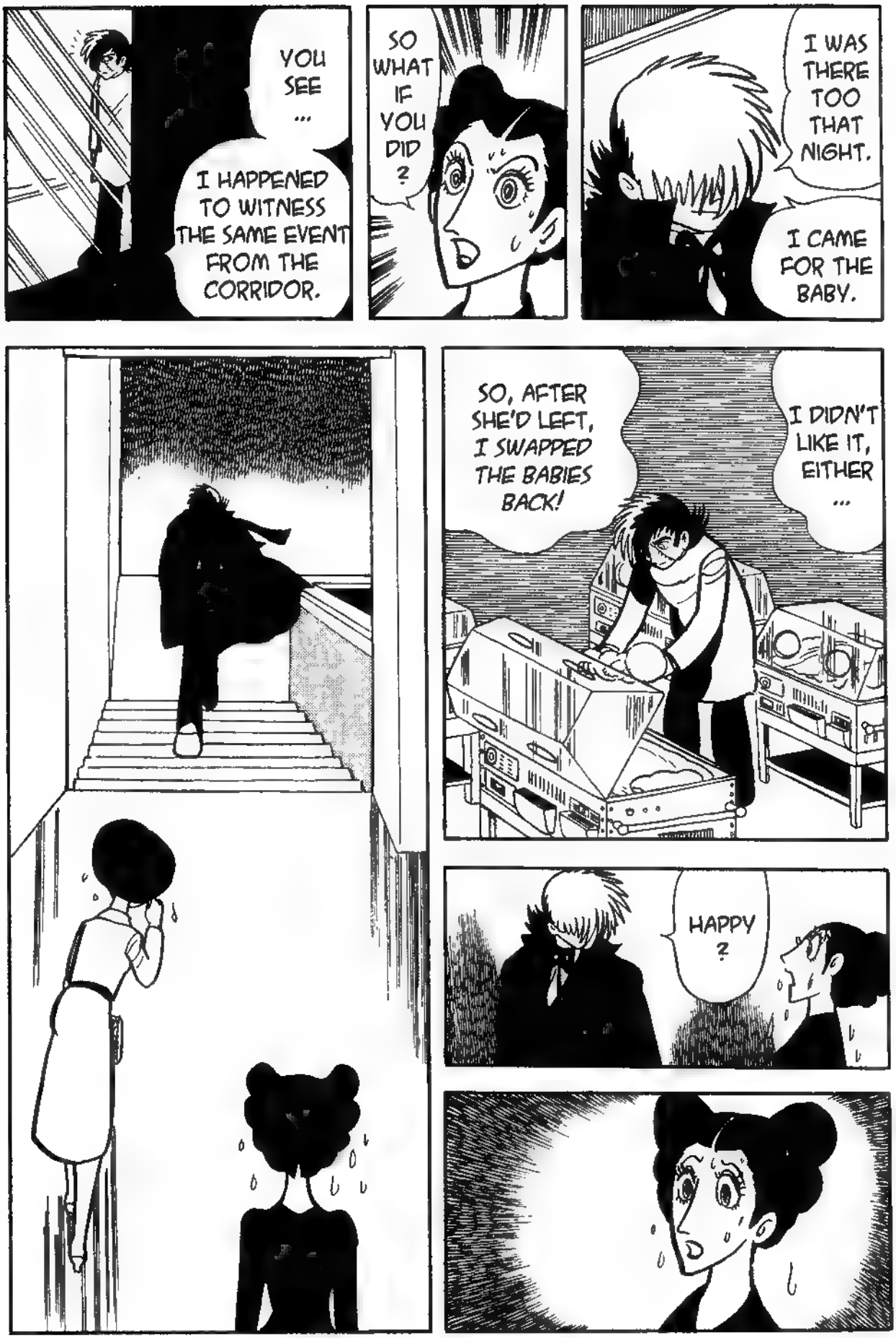
REMAIN SILENT IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO REPLY.


SHE SNEAKED INTO THE SPECIAL...
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
...
BLOOD TESTS WERE NOT CONCLUSIVE AS TO PATERNITY.
GRUMP
ORDER, PLAINTIFF.
"I SAW IT, I SAW IT... SHE SWAPPED BABIES..."
ONE NIGHT THREE YEARS AGO, SHE STORMED INTO OUR ROOM.
WE'RE HER NURSE COLLEAGUES.
WE CLEARLY HEARD HER SAY SO TO HERSELF.
YES, SHE SAW IT, AND THAT'S WHY SHE WAS VERY AGITATED.
YOU CALM DOWN.
WILL THE PLAINTIFF'S WITNESSES TAKE THE STAND?
STOMP

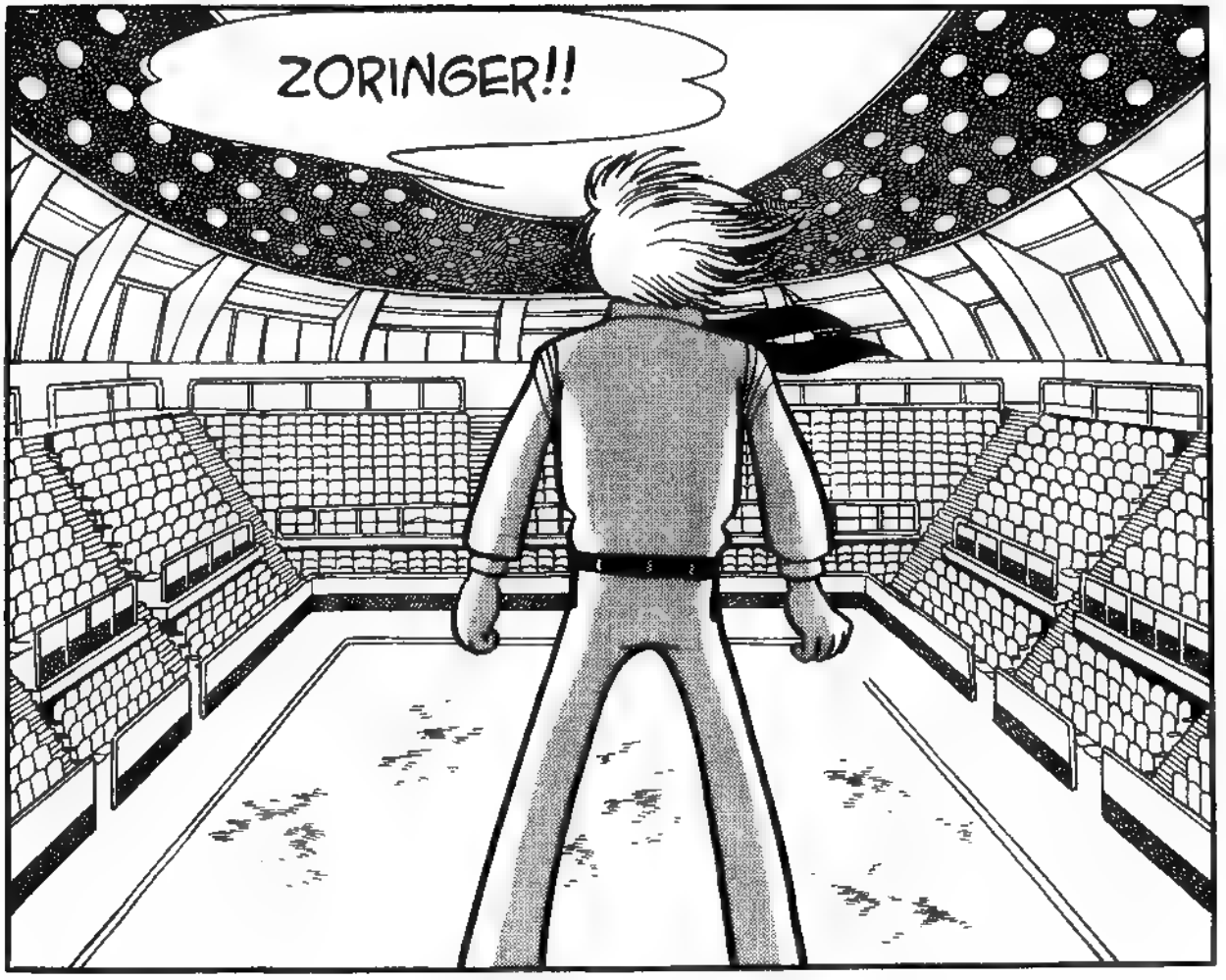

BY THE TIME I WAS BETTER, SHE'D LEFT.
THAT'S BECAUSE
I FELL ILL AND HAD TO TAKE THE NEXT FEW DAYS OFF.
WHY DIDN'T YOU CONFRONT THE MOTHER?
IN WHICH CASE ...
LET ME ASK YOU AGAIN. DID YOU, OR DID YOU NOT, GIVE BIRTH TO YOUR BOY?
SHE DID.
I'LL BE HER WITNESS.
WHO ARE YOU?
THE INFANT HAD A SERIOUS DISEASE CALLED LETTERER-SIWE. ITS LIFE WAS IN DANGER FROM THE MOMENT IT WAS BORN.
I'M THE DOCTOR WHO DELIVERED HER BABY.

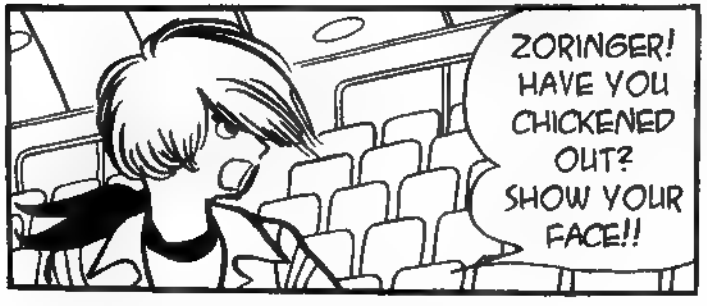
AND YOU OPERATED ON HIM?
SO WITH THE DIRECTOR'S PERMISSION, I WENT TO GET THE INFANT.
I THOUGHT I COULD PERHAPS CURE THE INFANT THROUGH SURGERY.
THEN
THAT SCAR ...
YES. IT WAS A SUCCESS,
SINCE THE BOY IS STILL ALIVE.
WELL, YOU COULD PAY ME FOR SAVING YOUR BABY.
HOW MAY I EVER THANK YOU?
HE IS INDEED HER CHILD.
THE BOY'S SCAR IS THE PROOF.
...
...

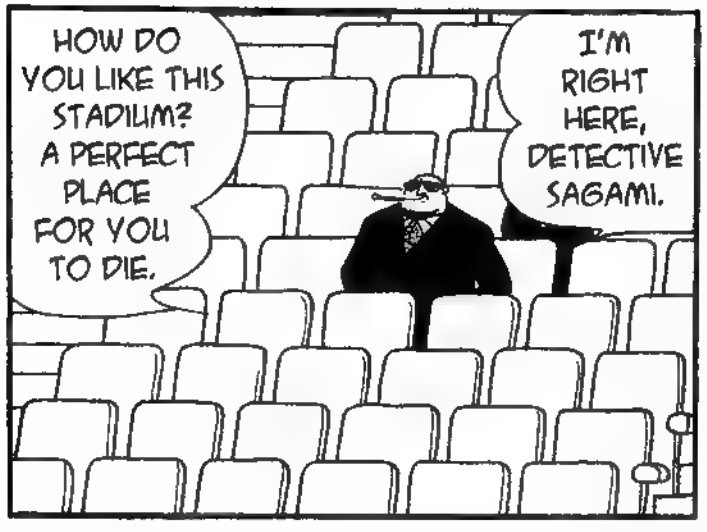
STOMP
STOMP
COULD YOU COUGH UP 100 YEN MAYBE?
HMM. IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO...
H-HOW MUCH?
NOW, THAT'S NOT POLITE.
HOW DARE YOU TELL SUCH A RED LIE ?!
WAIT A MOMENT, DR. BLACK JACK!
THE BOY SHE CALLS HER OWN IS A COMPLETE STRANGER!
SHE DID SWAP HER BABY! I'LL SWEAR IT BY GOD.
I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.
ONE OF US MUST BE A BIG LIAR.
NO, WE'RE BOTH TELLING THE TRUTH.
I CAN SWEAR TOO THAT THE BOY INDEED IS HER TRUE-BORN SON.
INTERESTING, DOCTOR ...

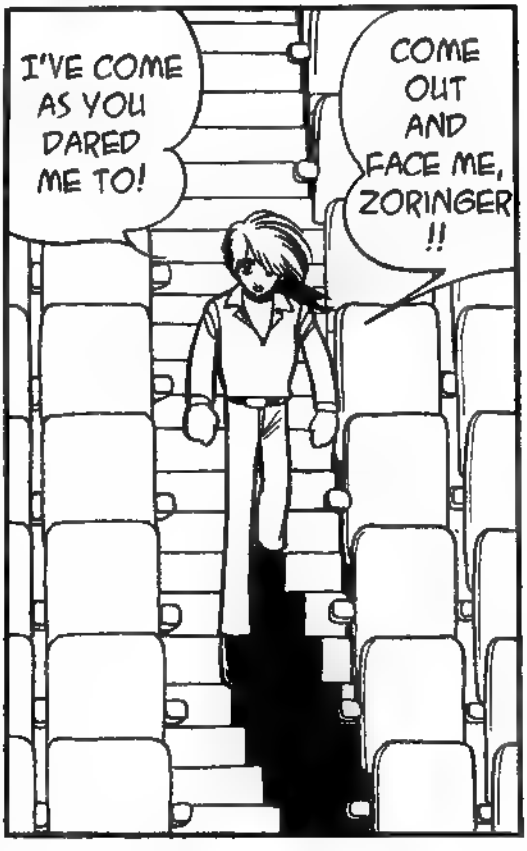

YOU SEE ...
I HAPPENED TO WITNESS THE SAME EVENT FROM THE CORRIDOR.
SO WHAT IF YOU DID ?
I WAS THERE TOO THAT NIGHT.
I CAME FOR THE BABY.
SO, AFTER SHE'D LEFT, I SWAPPED THE BABIES BACK!
I DIDN'T LIKE IT, EITHER ...
HAPPY ?

FINISH

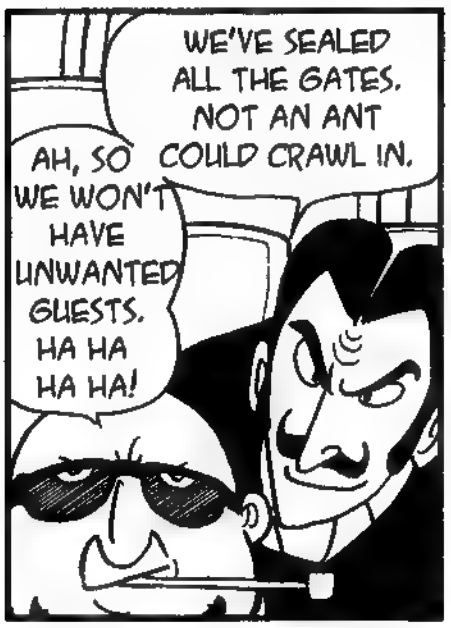

ZORINGER!!

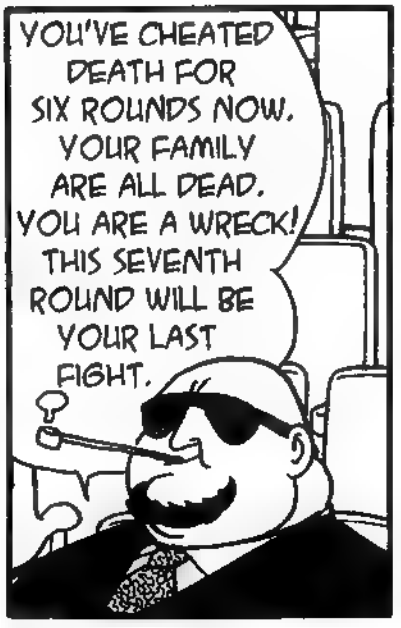

ZORINGER! HAVE YOU CHICKENED OUT? SHOW YOUR FACE!!


HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS STADIUM? A PERFECT PLACE FOR YOU TO DIE.
I'M RIGHT HERE, DETECTIVE SAGAMI.

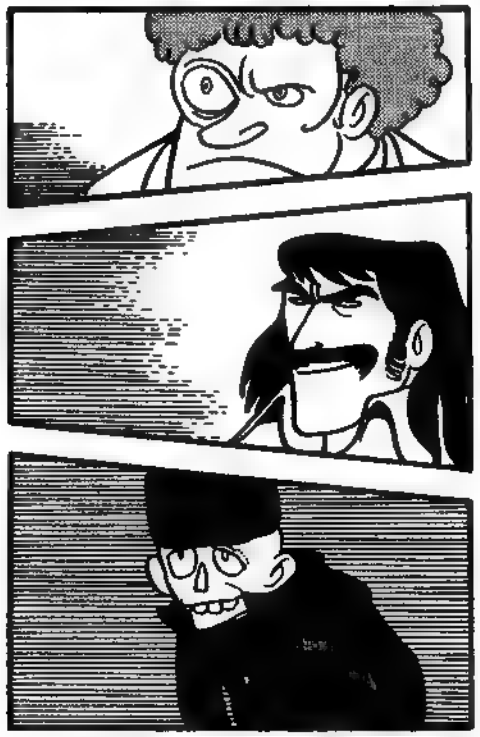

I'VE COME AS YOU DARED ME TO!
COME OUT AND FACE ME, ZORINGER!!

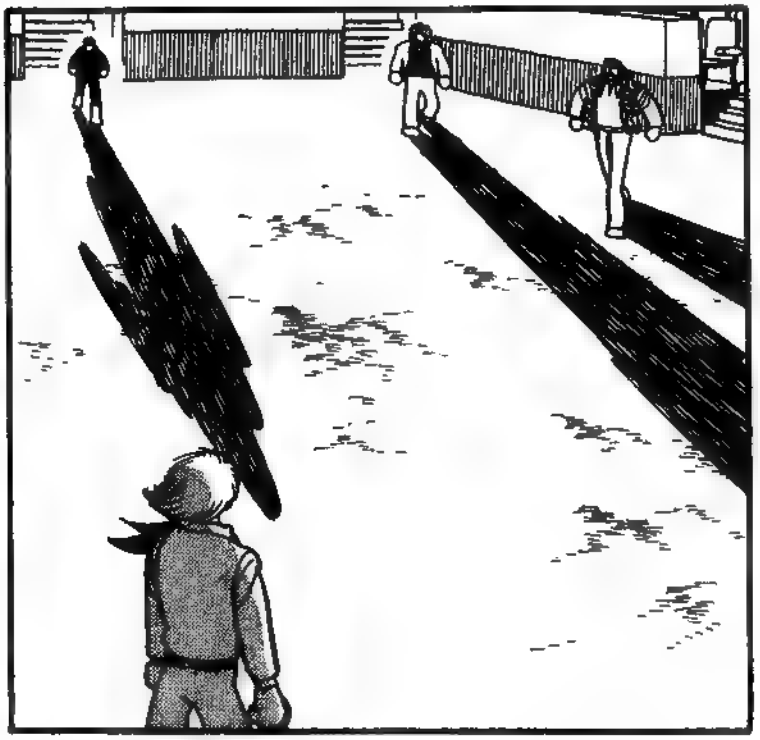
SO THAT YOU MAY DO SO IN GLORY, I'VE SUMMONED SOME CHOICE OPPONENTS FOR YOU. DON'T HESITATE TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE. MWA HA HA HA!

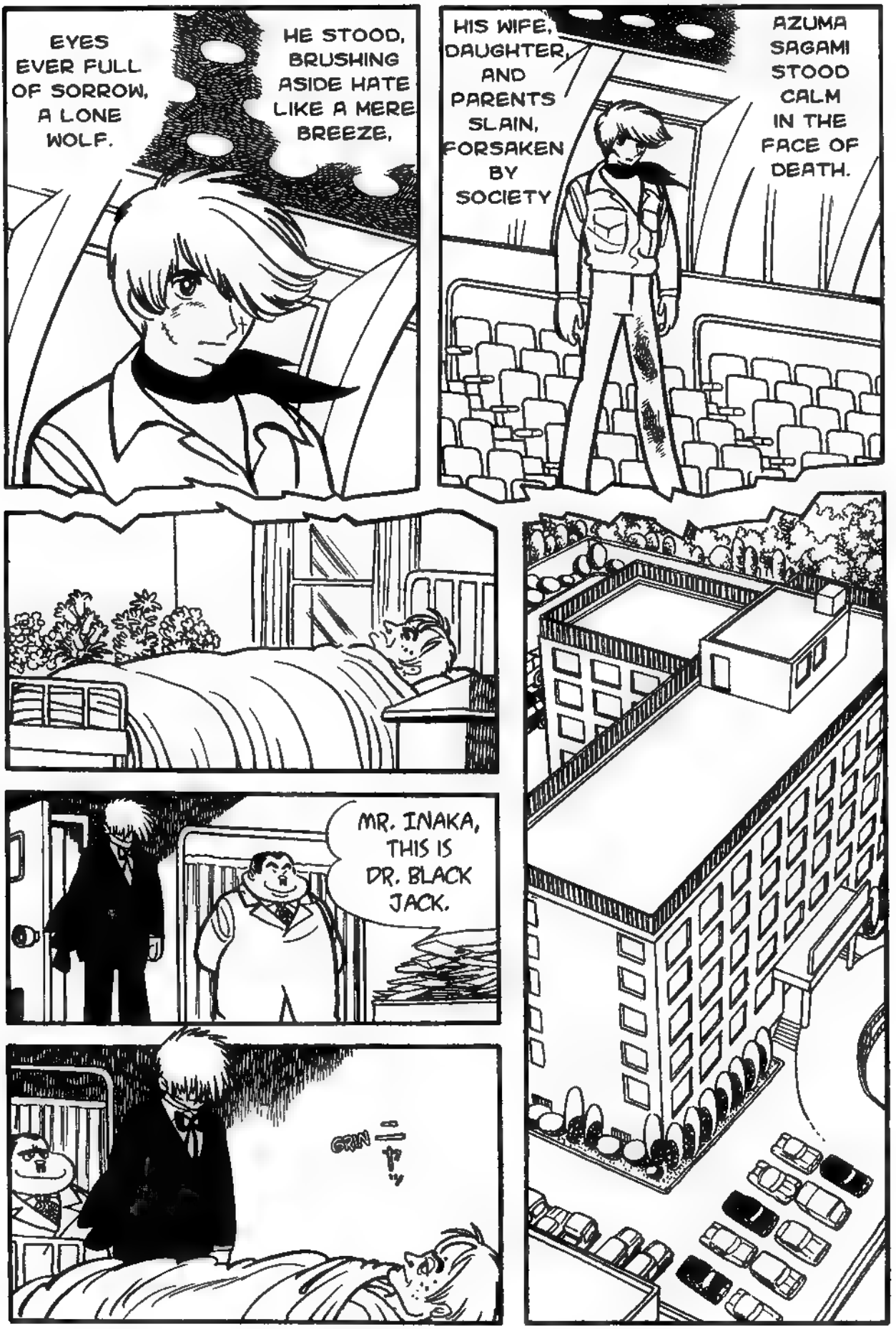

WE'VE SEALED ALL THE GATES. NOT AN ANT COULD CRAWL IN.
AH, SO WE WON'T HAVE UNWANTED GUESTS. HA HA HA HA!


YOU'VE CHEATED DEATH FOR SIX ROUNDS NOW. YOUR FAMILY ARE ALL DEAD. YOU ARE A WRECK! THIS SEVENTH ROUND WILL BE YOUR LAST FIGHT.

COWARD!
STILL AFRAID TO FIGHT ME YOUR-SELF?

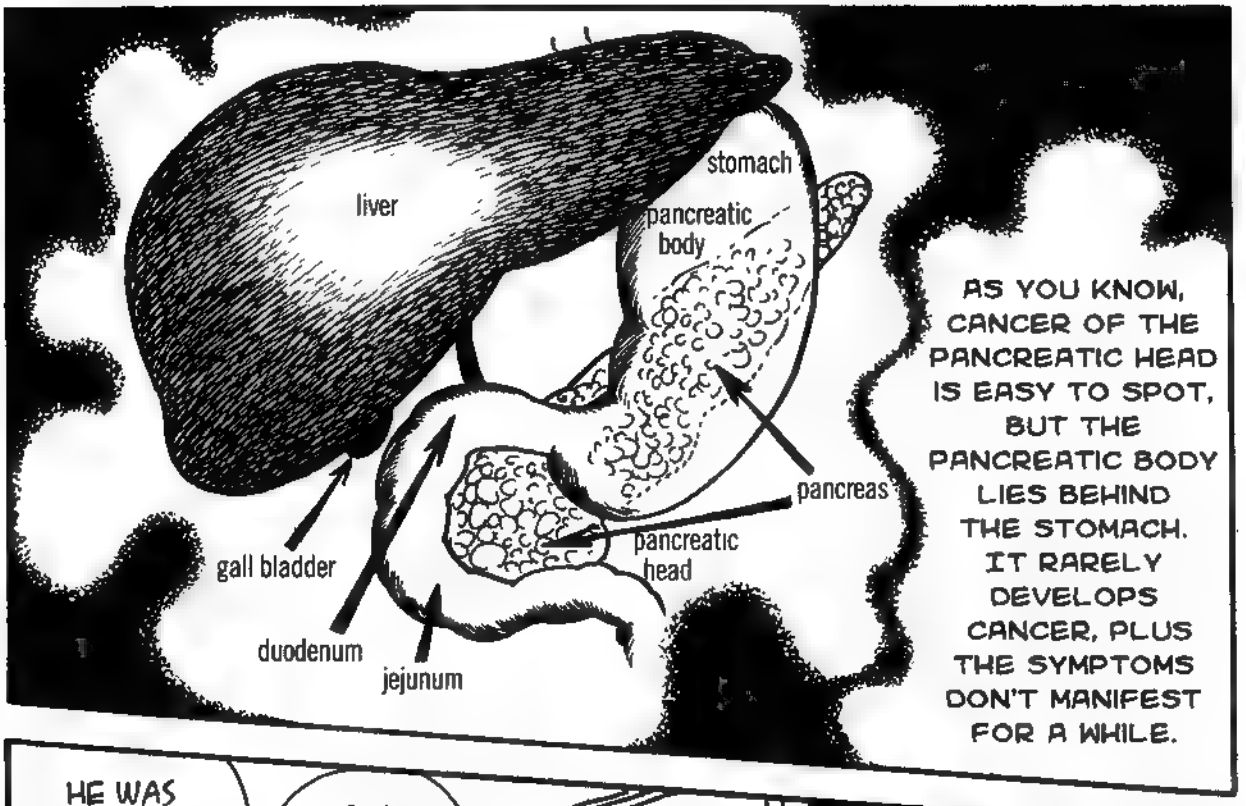




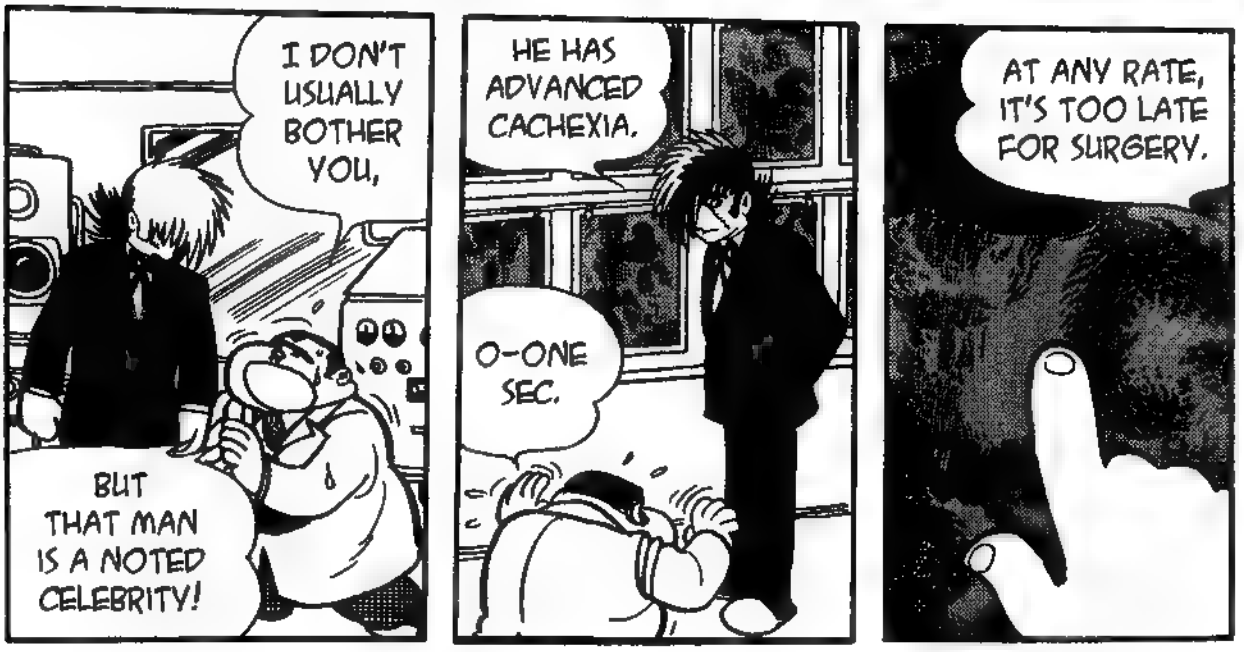

EYES EVER FULL OF SORROW, A LONE WOLF.
HE STOOD, BRUSHING ASIDE HATE LIKE A MERE BREEZE,
HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER, AND PARENTS SLAIN, FORSAKEN BY SOCIETY
AZUMA SAGAMI STOOD CALM IN THE FACE OF DEATH.
MR. INAKA, THIS IS DR. BLACK JACK.
GRIN

IT'S JUST THAT YOU REMIND ME A LOT OF MY PROTAGONIST, A MAN CALLED SAGAMI. I WAS QUITE SURPRISED.
AH, FOR-GIVE ME.
HEH
UNKNOWN CENTURY ?
MY DAUGHTER WAS A HUGE FAN OF THE TV ADAPTATION.
NOW THAT YOU SAY SO, YOU'RE RIGHT!
THEY'RE ALL BEGGING HIM TO CONTINUE HIS NOVEL.
CHECK THIS OUT, BLACK JACK. HE GETS TONS OF FAN LETTERS EVERY DAY.
HOW 'BOUT THAT?

"I DREW A PORTRAIT OF AZUMA SAGAMI. PLEASE HANG IT BY YOUR BEDSIDE."
"INAKA SENSEI, PLEASE RECOVER SOON AND PICK UP UNKNOWN CENTURY WHERE YOU LEFT OFF."
ONLY ONE MAN CAN CURE ITS CREATOR.
THERE'S BEEN A TV SERIES AND A FEATURE FILM.
SAY YES!
THAT'D BE YOU, BLACK JACK.
KIDS ARE CRAZY ABOUT IT TOO!
FIFTY MILLION FANS NATIONWIDE ARE WAITING !!
I'M A FAN MYSELF.
UNKNOWN CENTURY IS A RUNAWAY BESTSELLER. ITS POPULARITY IS UNRIVALLED.
HOW DID YOU MISS IT?
IT'S VERY FAR GONE ...
I'M ASHAMED.


liver
stomach
pancreatic body
pancreas
pancreatic head
gall bladder
duodenum
jejunum
AS YOU KNOW, CANCER OF THE PANCREATIC HEAD IS EASY TO SPOT, BUT THE PANCREATIC BODY LIES BEHIND THE STOMACH. IT RARELY DEVELOPS CANCER, PLUS THE SYMPTOMS DON'T MANIFEST FOR A WHILE.

HE WAS JAUNDICED, BUT I ASSUMED IT WAS HIS GALL BLADDER.
JUST A FEW DAYS AGO.
WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THAT HE HAS CANCER?

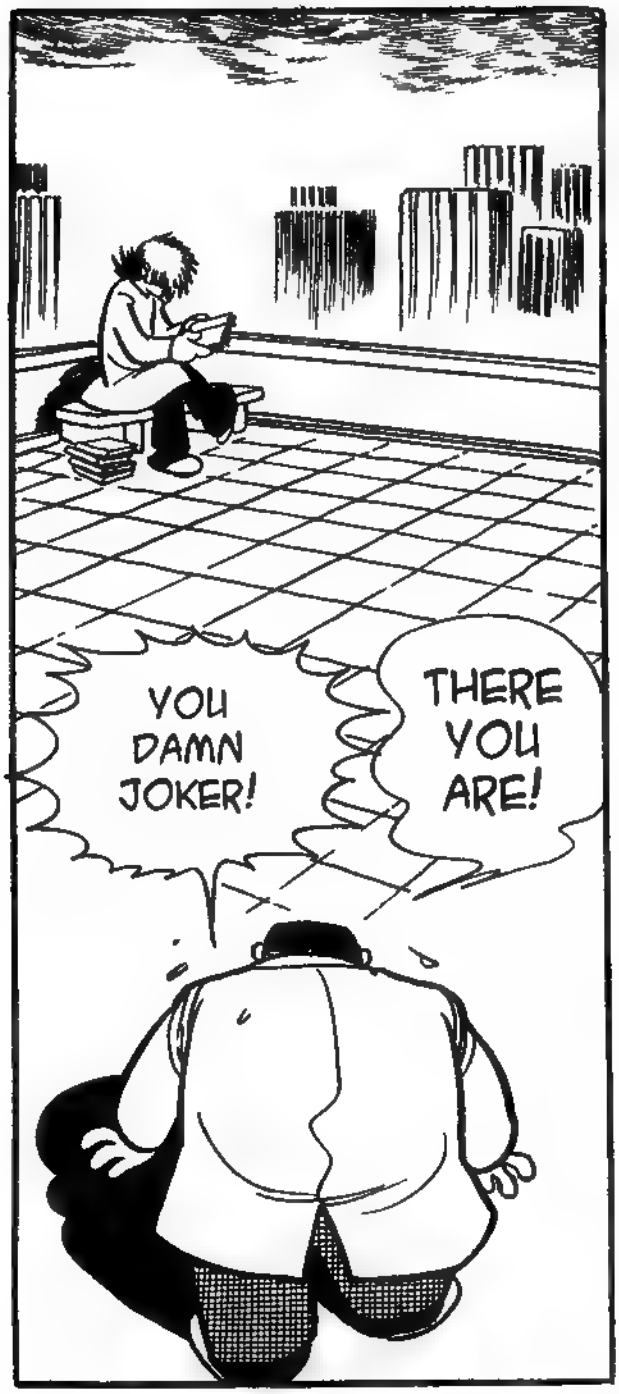

I DON'T USUALLY BOTHER YOU,
BUT THAT MAN IS A NOTED CELEBRITY!
HE HAS ADVANCED CACHEXIA.
O-ONE SEC.
AT ANY RATE, IT'S TOO LATE FOR SURGERY.

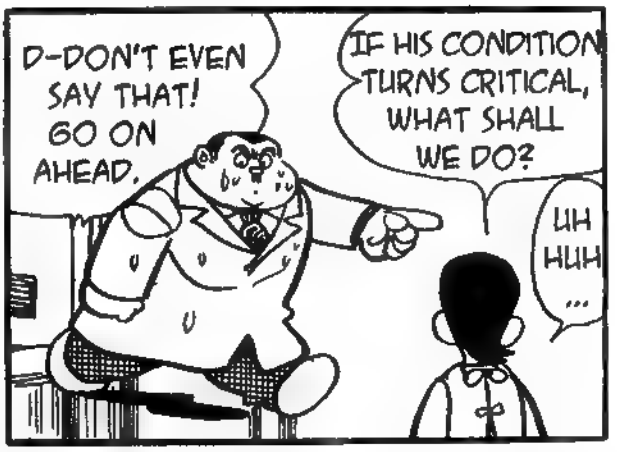
WHAT, DO YOU THINK I'M SOME SORT OF GOD?
I THOUGHT I'D ASK FOR YOUR HELP BECAUSE I KNOW—
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE THE ONE AND ONLY BLACK JACK !
I BELIEVE IN YOU.
HE CAN'T SURVIVE MAJOR SURGERY AT HIS AGE.
IT'S NO USE ...
WHAT CAN'T BE DONE, CAN'T BE DONE.
CUT YOUR CRAP.
IT'LL BE GREAT FOR MY HOSPITAL.
IF YOU CURE HIM,
TO SAVE MY NECK.
DO IT
BUT ALL I WANT IS TO FINISH THAT ONE NOVEL BEFORE I DIE.
DOCTOR, I'M BEYOND SAVING, AMN'T I? I CAN TELL.

TRY AS I MIGHT, I COULDN'T DESCRIBE THE HEART OF A MAN IN SUCH A FIX.
I GUESS I NEEDED TO LIVE IT FIRST.
DOCTOR,
DO YOU KNOW WHY I PUT IT ON HIATUS RIGHT BEFORE THE END?
THE HERO SAGAMI
FACES CERTAIN DEATH.
BUT DOCTOR, IF IT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE,
NO, FORGET IT... MY FATE WAS TO DIE OFF LIKE THIS.
THERE WILL BE NO OPERATION, AND I'M GOING HOME.
MR. INAKA,
AFTER THE SURGERY,
KEEP ME GOING JUST ONE DAY, NO, JUST ONE NIGHT

SO LONG.
BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT SURVIVE IT.
WHY NOT?
WHAT?!
BESTSELLER
I'LL TAKE THE WHOLE SERIES.
SHOP
TELL SENSEI THAT WE WILL DO THE OP.
WHO JUST TELLS IT AS IT IS TO A PATIENT?!
TO INAKA SENSEI?
H-HE SAID THAT?
WHAT CAN I DO?
I'D NEVER SUCCEED AT THIS ONE, THOUGH.

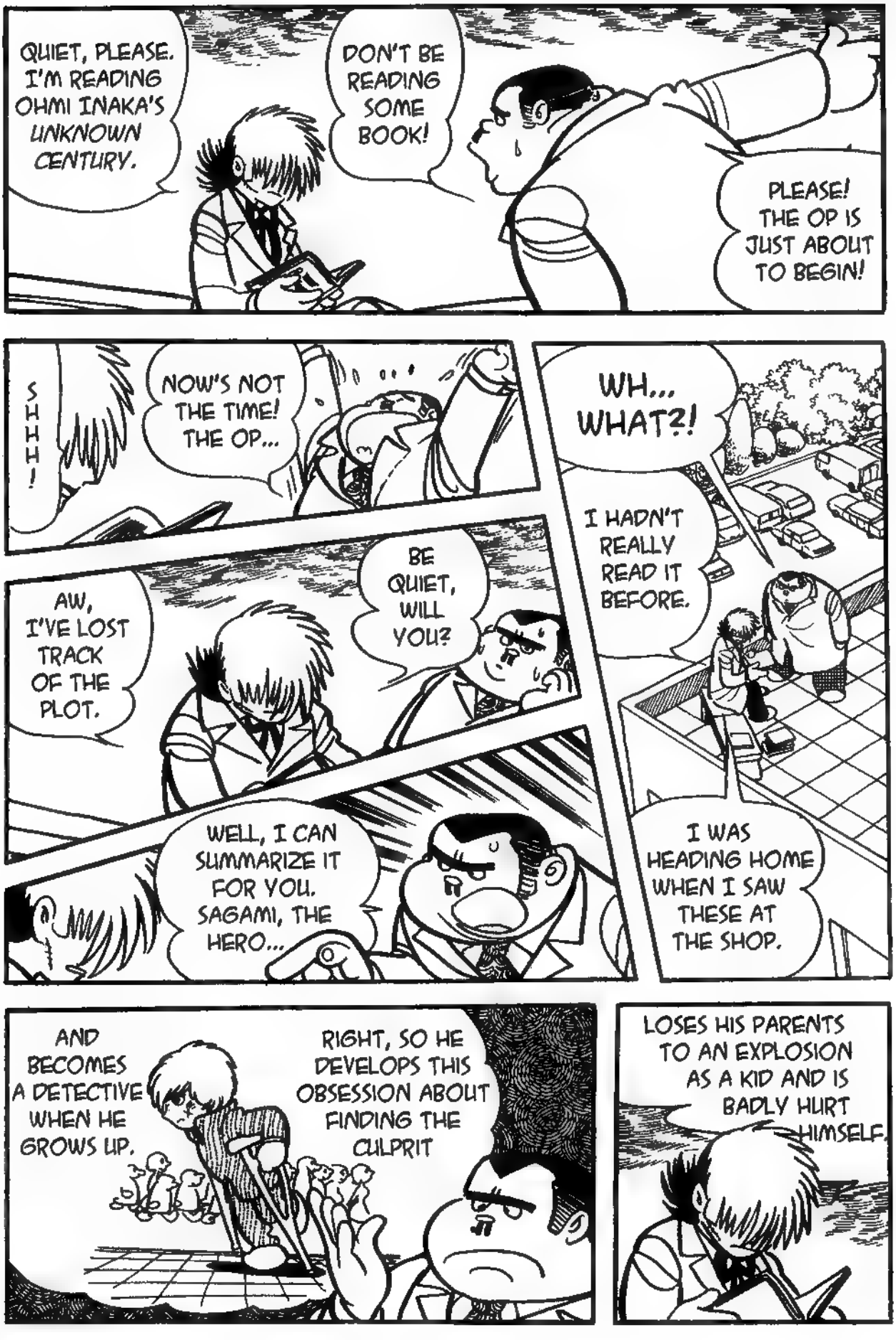
I'LL BE THERE SOON.
OH, UHM...
DIRECTOR, THEY'RE READY FOR THE OP.

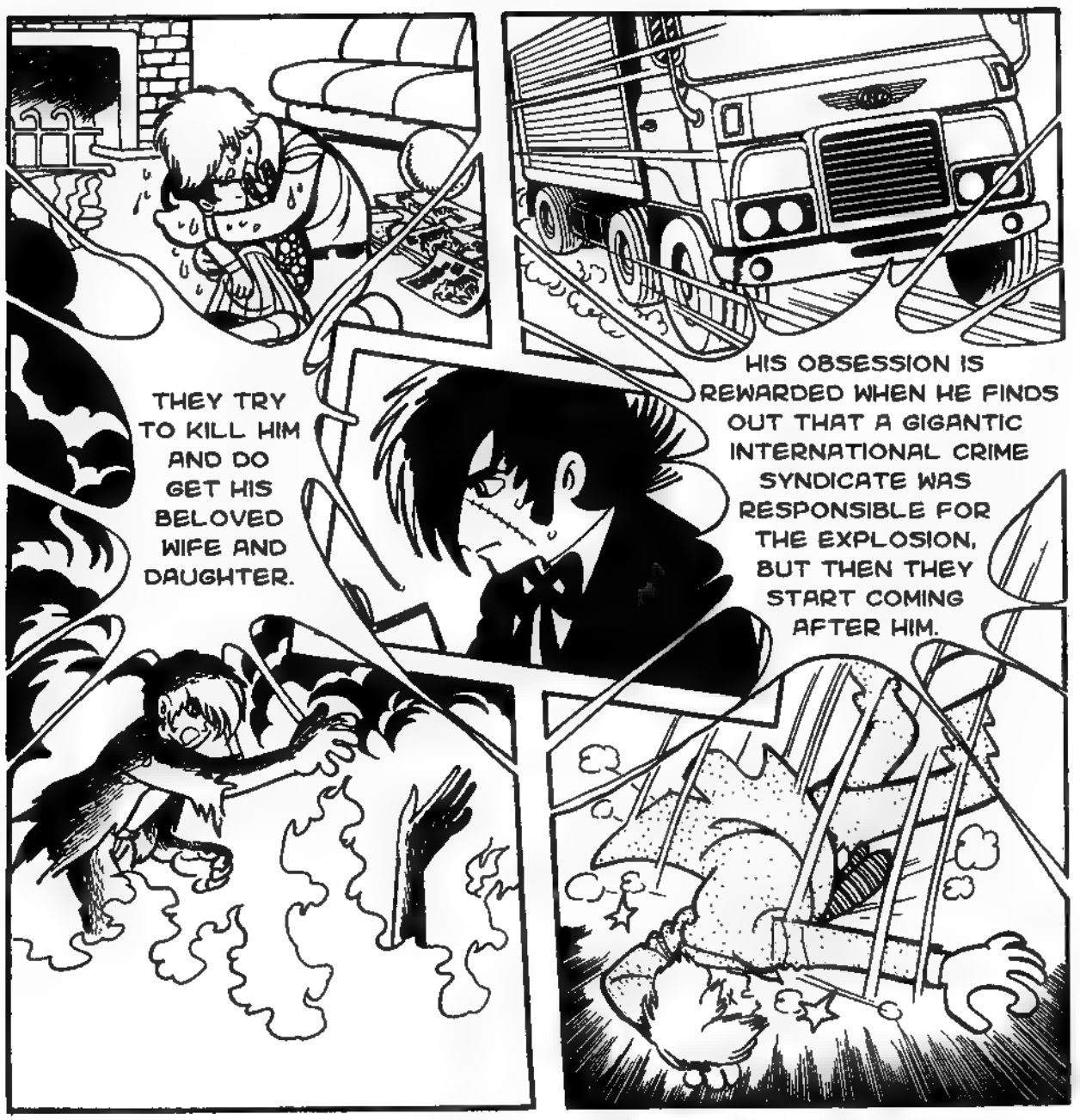

YOU DAMN JOKER!
THERE YOU ARE!

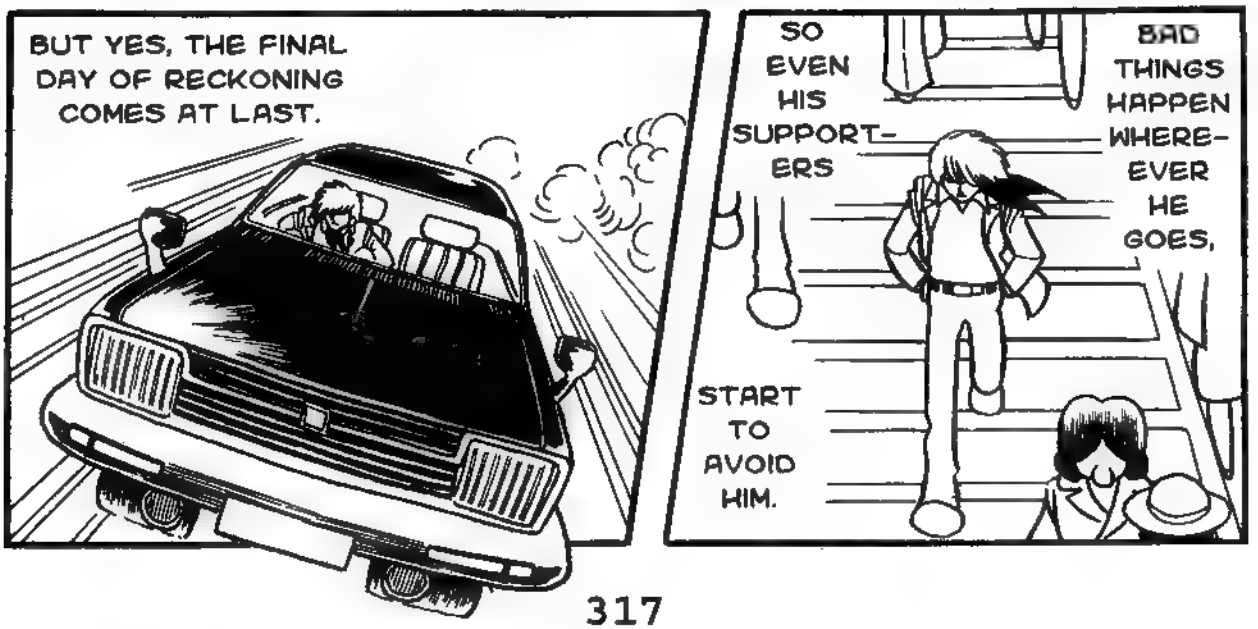

D-DON'T EVEN SAY THAT! GO ON AHEAD.
IF HIS CONDITION TURNS CRITICAL, WHAT SHALL WE DO?
UH HUH ...

DAMN, HE WENT HOME?
HULLO, BLACK JACK?

THE DOCTOR WENT UP TO THE ROOF.
HUHN ?!


QUIET, PLEASE. I'M READING OHMI INAKA'S UNKNOWN CENTURY.
DON'T BE READING SOME BOOK!
PLEASE! THE OP IS JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN!
SHHH!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME! THE OP...
BE QUIET, WILL YOU?
AW, I'VE LOST TRACK OF THE PLOT.
WELL, I CAN SUMMARIZE IT FOR YOU. SAGAMI, THE HERO...
WH... WHAT?!
I HADN'T REALLY READ IT BEFORE.
I WAS HEADING HOME WHEN I SAW THESE AT THE SHOP.
AND BECOMES A DETECTIVE WHEN HE GROWS UP.
RIGHT, SO HE DEVELOPS THIS OBSESSION ABOUT FINDING THE CULPRIT
LOSES HIS PARENTS TO AN EXPLOSION AS A KID AND IS BADLY HURT HIMSELF.


THEY TRY TO KILL HIM AND DO GET HIS BELOVED WIFE AND DAUGHTER.
HIS OBSESSION IS REWARDED WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT A GIGANTIC INTERNATIONAL CRIME SYNDICATE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPLOSION, BUT THEN THEY START COMING AFTER HIM.


BUT YES, THE FINAL DAY OF RECKONING COMES AT LAST.
SO EVEN HIS SUPPORT-ERS START TO AVOID HIM.
BAD THINGS HAPPEN WHERE-EVER HE GOES,

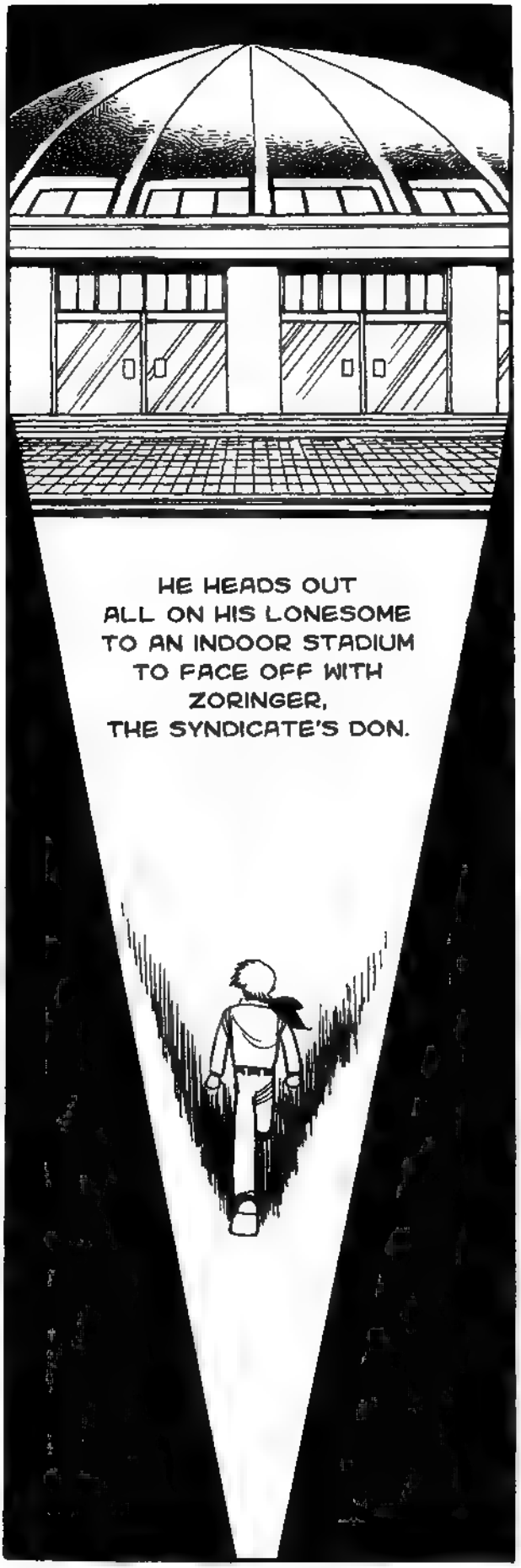
AND THEN ?

RIGHT AT THE CLIMAX.
AND THEN INAKA SENSEI STOPS WRITING!

NOW YOU KNOW HOW READERS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY FEEL LIKE.

I SEE.

LET ME HELP WITH THAT OP.
YIKES,
RIGHT?


HE HEADS OUT ALL ON HIS LONESOME TO AN INDOOR STADIUM TO FACE OFF WITH ZORINGER, THE SYNDICATE'S DON.

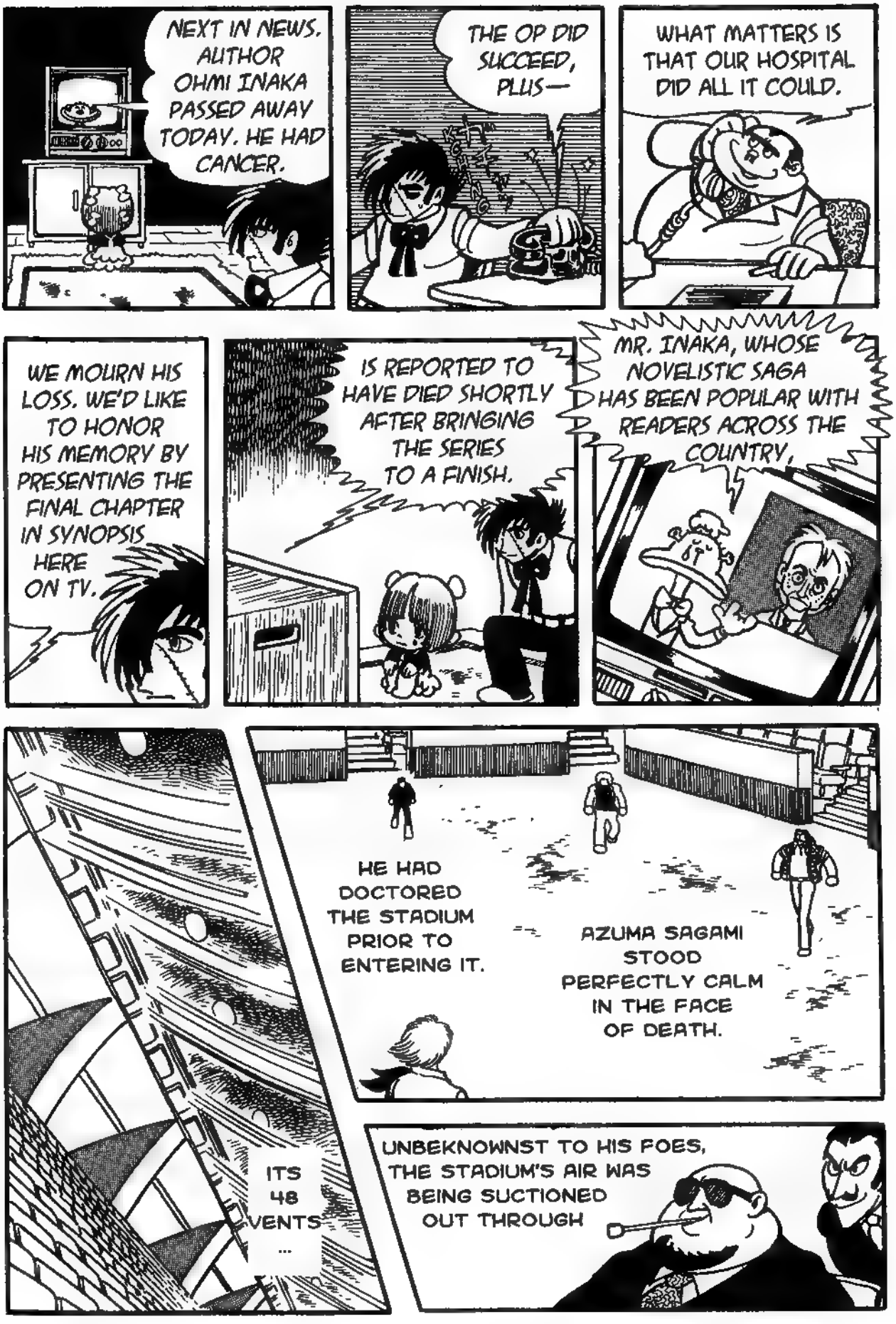
INITI-
ATING
GLUCOSE
DRIP.
WE'RE
SET!
THE
GRAND
MASTER
WILL TAKE
THE
HELM.
SPINAL
ANESTHESIA
GOOD TO
TH 5.
KEEP
HIM ON
OXYGEN.
MONITOR
BREATHING,
BLOOD
PRESSURE.
SHK
SHK
SLK
LIGATION-INCISION
OF GASTROCOLIC
LIGAMENT!
INTES-
TINAL
FORCEPS!
SHK
SHK

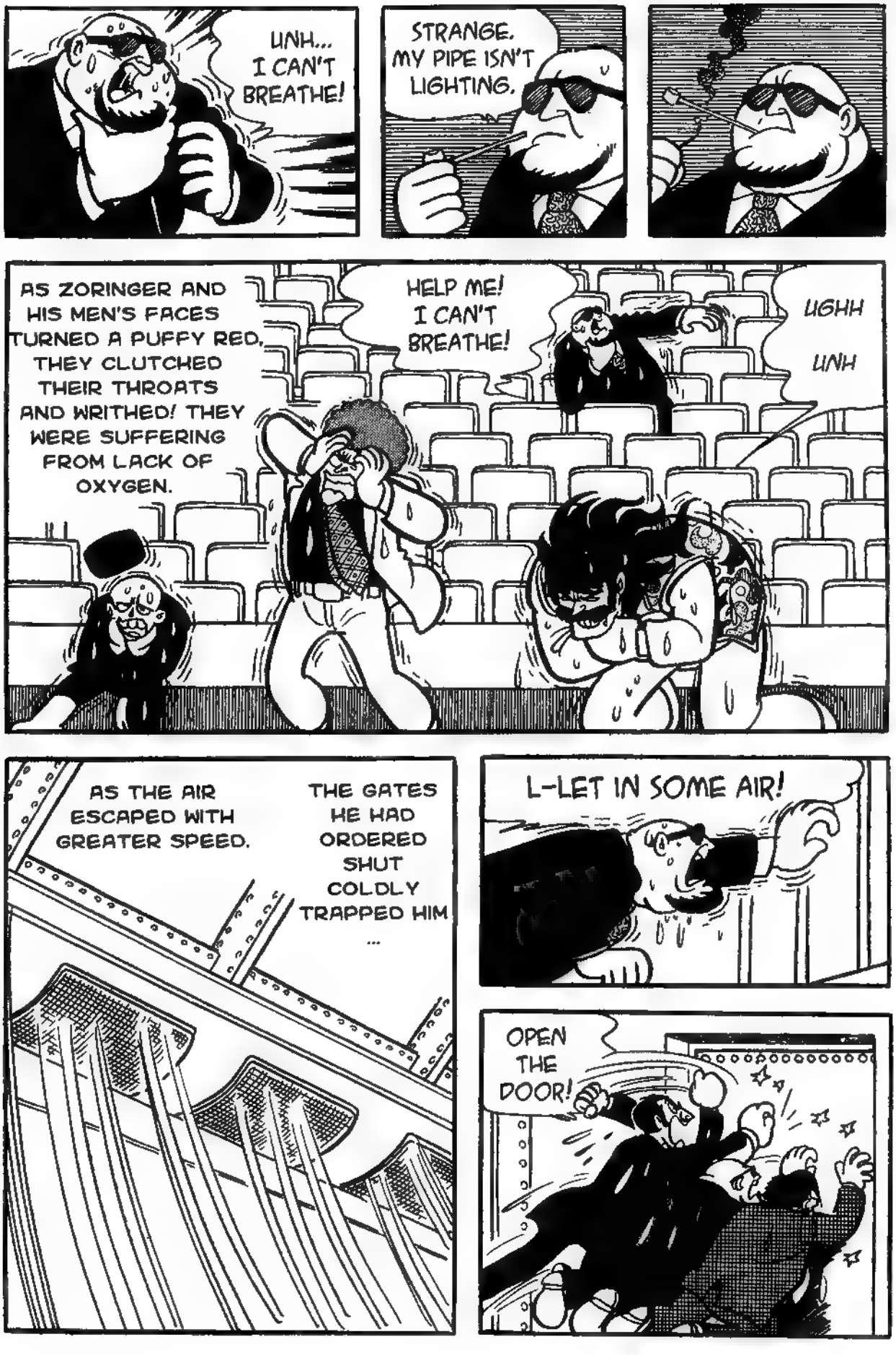
DRAIN.
MAJOR ADHESION ...
CLOSE.
MONITOR BLOOD PRESSURE TILL THE VERY END.
DUO-DENUM.
STOMACH REMOVED
WOOHOO! WE DID IT!
HE PULLED THROUGH.

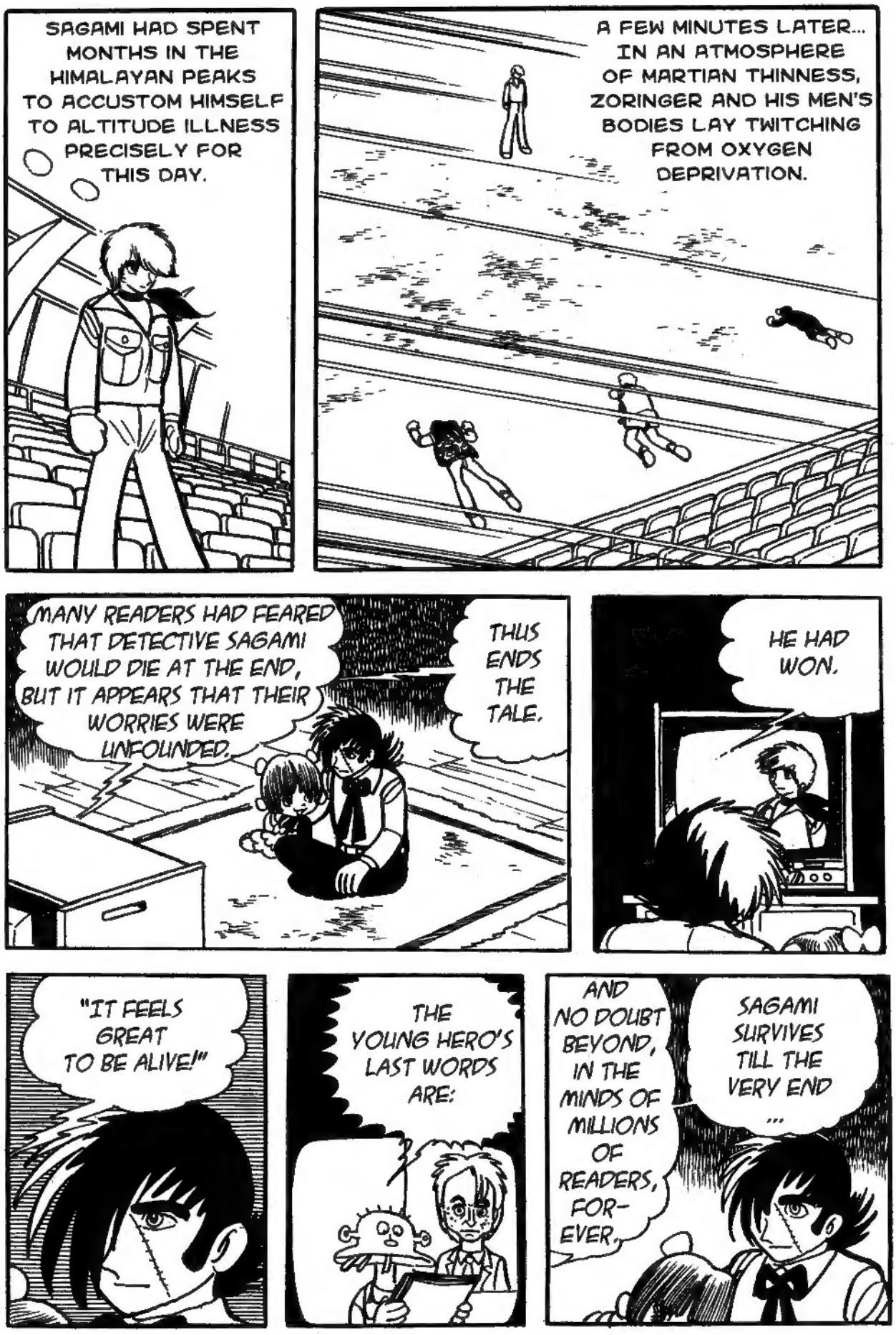
YES, YOUR STOMACH, PANCREAS, DUODENUM, AND GALL BLADDER.
DR. BLACK JACK, I HEAR I'VE BEEN EMPTIED OUT GOOD.
ALLOW ME TO ASK YOU THIS. HOW LONG DO I HAVE LEFT?
HM.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
GOOD TO KNOW. I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE PROLONGED MY LIFE.
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
THOUGH YOU MADE IT, I'D SAY MAYBE TWO OR THREE WEEKS.
I'D LIKE AN ANSWER.
IT FEELS GREAT TO STILL BE ALIVE ...
I WON'T LET THIS THRILL GO TO WASTE...
DOCTOR BLACK JACK ...

NMM!
KRIK KRIK
カリ カリ
UNGH

NOTE: THE CHARACTERS FOR "OHMI INAKA" COME FROM A JAPANESE PROVERB THAT MEANS "BIG FISH IN A SMALL POND."


NEXT IN NEWS, AUTHOR OHMI INAKA PASSED AWAY TODAY. HE HAD CANCER.
THE OP DID SUCCEED, PLUS—
KE-TI-N
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT OUR HOSPITAL DID ALL IT COULD.
WE MOURN HIS LOSS. WE'D LIKE TO HONOR HIS MEMORY BY PRESENTING THE FINAL CHAPTER IN SYNOPSIS HERE ON TV.
IS REPORTED TO HAVE DIED SHORTLY AFTER BRINGING THE SERIES TO A FINISH.
MR. INAKA, WHOSE NOVELISTIC SAGA HAS BEEN POPULAR WITH READERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY,
HE HAD DOCTORED THE STADIUM PRIOR TO ENTERING IT.
AZUMA SAGAMI STOOD PERFECTLY CALM IN THE FACE OF DEATH.
ITS 48 VENTS ...
UNBEKNOWNST TO HIS FOES, THE STADIUM'S AIR WAS BEING SUCTIONED OUT THROUGH


UNH... I CAN'T BREATHE!
STRANGE. MY PIPE ISN'T LIGHTING.
AS ZORINGER AND HIS MEN'S FACES TURNED A PUFFY RED, THEY CLUTCHED THEIR THROATS AND WRITHED! THEY WERE SUFFERING FROM LACK OF OXYGEN.
HELP ME! I CAN'T BREATHE!
UGHH
UNH
AS THE AIR ESCAPED WITH GREATER SPEED.
THE GATES HE HAD ORDERED SHUT COLDLY TRAPPED HIM ...
L-LET IN SOME AIR!
OPEN THE DOOR!


SAGAMI HAD SPENT MONTHS IN THE HIMALAYAN PEAKS TO ACCUSTOM HIMSELF TO ALTITUDE ILLNESS PRECISELY FOR THIS DAY.
A FEW MINUTES LATER... IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MARTIAN THINNESS, ZORINGER AND HIS MEN'S BODIES LAY TWITCHING FROM OXYGEN DEPRIVATION.
MANY READERS HAD FEARED THAT DETECTIVE SAGAMI WOULD DIE AT THE END, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THEIR WORRIES WERE UNFOUNDED.
THUS ENDS THE TALE.
HE HAD WON.
"IT FEELS GREAT TO BE ALIVE!"
THE YOUNG HERO'S LAST WORDS ARE:
AND NO DOUBT BEYOND, IN THE MINDS OF MILLIONS OF READERS, FOR-EVER,
SAGAMI SURVIVES TILL THE VERY END ...

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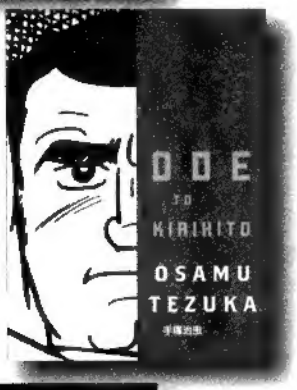

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/// WRONG WAY! ///

Japanese books, including manga like this one, are meant to be read **from right to left.**

So the front cover is actually the back cover, and vice-versa.

To read this book, **please flip it over**
and start in the top right-hand corner. Read the panels,
and the bubbles in the panels, from right to left,
then drop down to the next row
and repeat.

It may make you dizzy at first,
but forcing your brain
to do things backwards
makes you smarter
in the long run.
We swear.

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